



June 1999

# Idaho Public Policy Survey

## Number Ten



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1999

Center for Public Policy and Administration  
College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs  
Boise State University

**1999 Center for Public Policy and Administration, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho**

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## IDAHO PUBLIC POLICY SURVEY

### NUMBER TEN (1999)

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#### Acknowledgments

The 1999 Public Policy Survey was produced as a result of the work of many people. The survey was conducted under the direction of Dr. James B. Weatherby, Chair of the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Boise State University. Data collection was conducted under the direction of John Carlson and Barbara Schnabel at the Social Science Research Unit, College of Agriculture at the University of Idaho. Data analysis was conducted under the direction of Dr. W. David Patton, Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration and by Christine Jarski, Shauna Hanisch, and Christa Braun, Graduate Assistants with the Center. Editing and production was done by Becky Meyer, Administrative Assistant with the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Boise State University.

A number of agencies and University departments contracted for questions to be included in the survey. These included the following: College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at Boise State University, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, INEEL Oversight Committee, Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, and Idaho Department of Vocational Education.

## Introduction

The Idaho State Board of Education has designated public affairs as a primary emphasis for Boise State University. One of the ways this mission is fulfilled is by conducting the annual Idaho Public Policy Survey. This survey investigates public opinion regarding key issues that are currently being considered by policy makers and citizens within Idaho. The core questions, which are asked every year, provide a basis for analyzing policy trends and preferences within the state. Additionally, this issue of the Idaho Public Policy Survey examines specific policy areas currently being discussed in the public arena. These include vocational education, higher education, public schools, recreation, the Division of Environmental Quality, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, abortion, use of public lands, as well as racial, ethnic, and religious attitudes. The survey of attitudes toward minorities is repeated from a survey conducted in 1988 and shows significant changes from public attitudes in Idaho of over a decade ago.

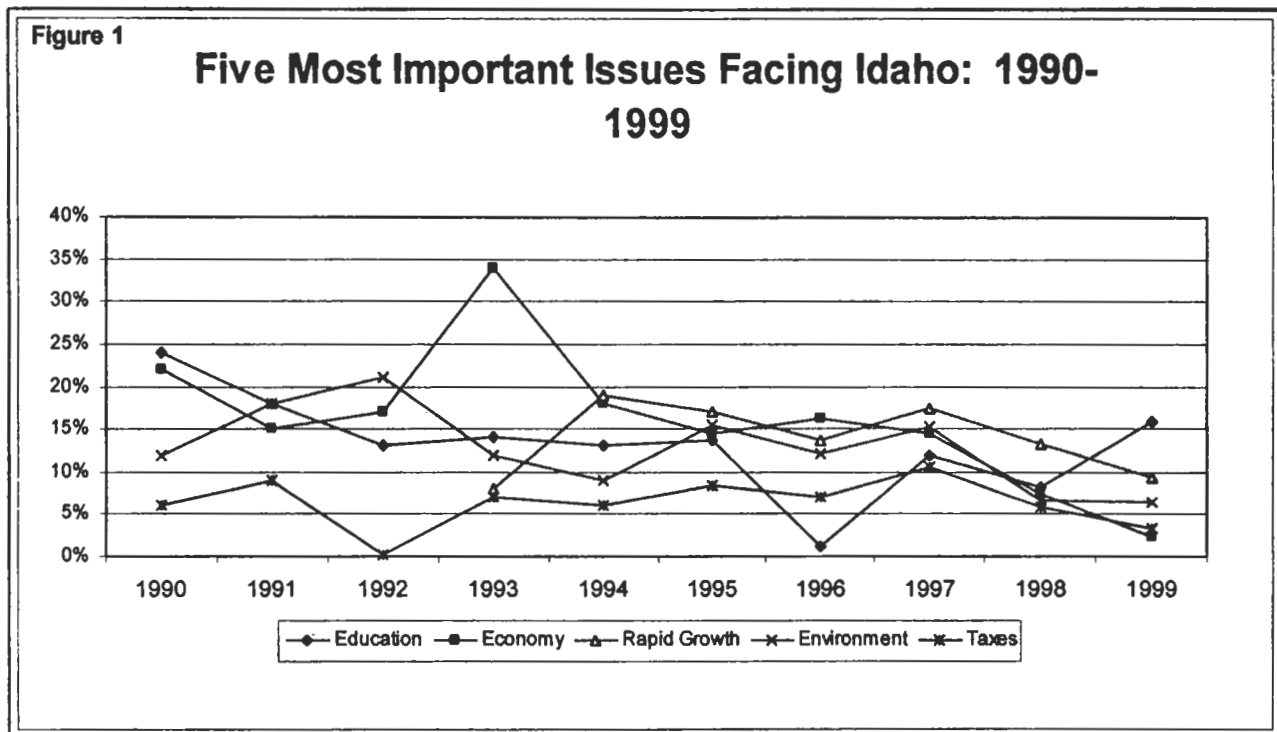
## Historical Perspective

### Ten Years of Public Policy Survey Research

Over the past ten years, the Idaho Public Policy Survey has asked Idahoans about several different public policy issues of interest at the time of the survey. In addition, every year the survey asks respondents about a number of "core questions." These core questions ask respondents about their perceptions of government, including trust and confidence in government, the perceived responsiveness of government, and which level of government gives the most for tax money. Survey respondents are also asked about spending for specific policy areas like education, law enforcement, prison spending, and child services. These questions provide a way of assessing the changing attitudes and opinions of the people of Idaho over several years.

## Most Important Problem

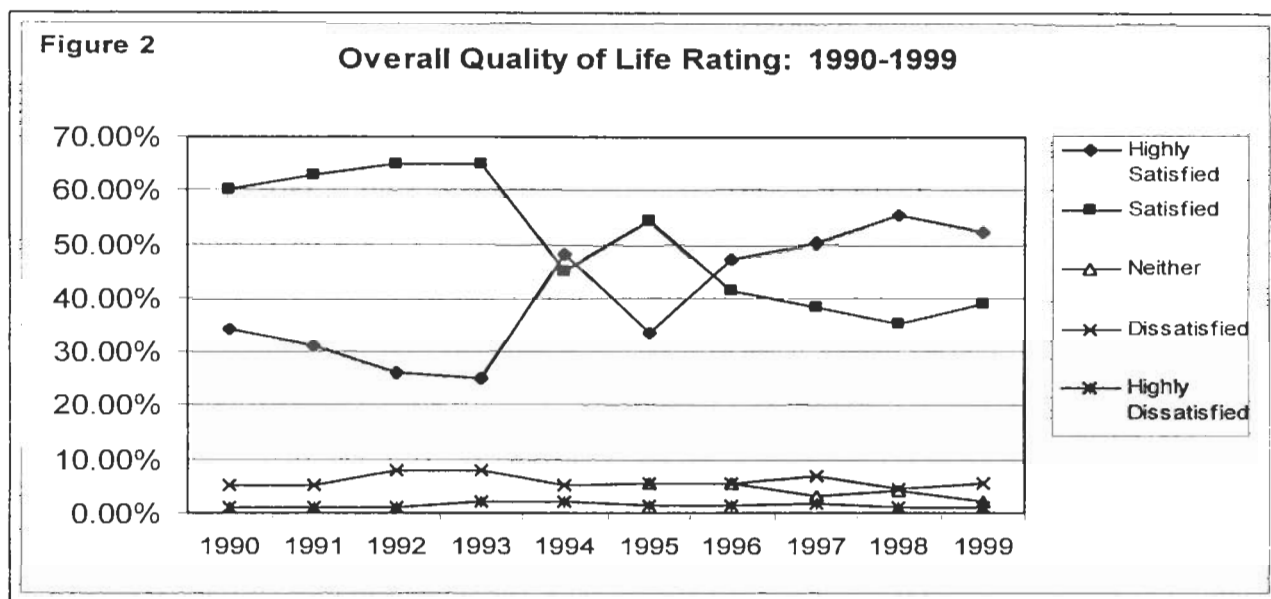
One of the most interesting core questions asks respondents what they think is the most important problem facing Idaho. Several issues have emerged as being of concern to Idahoans. However, the five most common concerns have been rapid growth, education, the economy, the environment, and taxes (Idaho Public Policy Surveys, 1990-1999). As Figure 1 illustrates, the amount of concern for the individual issues has fluctuated over the past ten years.



In 1990, education and the economy were ranked as being the most important problems facing the state. In 1991, the environment increased in importance and matched education as the top priority. In 1992, the environment remained the most important problem. In 1993, the economy was considered the most important problem by approximately 34% of respondents, and again in 1996 the economy had the highest ranking. Growth first surfaced as a problem in 1993 and was considered the most important problem in 1994, 1995, 1997, and 1998. However, in 1999 there was more concern about education than any other issue.

## Quality of Life

The level of satisfaction with the quality of life in Idaho has been increasing since 1992, particularly in the number of those who are “Highly Satisfied” as compared to “Satisfied” (See Figure 2).



In 1993 approximately 8% of survey respondents were “Dissatisfied” and 2% were “Highly Dissatisfied.” In 1990, 34% of survey respondents were highly satisfied with the quality of life, and 60% were satisfied. In 1999, approximately 91% of those surveyed indicated they were satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of life in Idaho. Fifty-two percent of those surveyed indicated they were “Highly Satisfied” while another thirty-nine percent of Idaho respondents indicated they were “Satisfied” with their quality of life.

## 1999 Survey Methodology

The 1999 Public Policy Survey was developed by the Center for Public Policy and Administration at Boise State University. Questions were assembled from University departments and other organizations interested in public policy issues in Idaho. The actual telephone interviewing was contracted to the Social Science Research Unit at the University of Idaho.

A random sample was selected from telephone exchanges throughout Idaho and telephone contact was made with 659 respondents during the second and third weeks of January, 1999. Persons age 17 or older were questioned on a variety of policy issues. The survey sample size ensures a confidence level of 95%. In other words, we are 95% certain that the results found in this survey are the same as the results found in the population within a margin of error of plus or minus 5%. The level of confidence applies to the state-wide survey results. In some cases, we have also analyzed the survey results according to region of the state, race, age, gender, income, and political ideology. When the sample size is reduced as a result of analyzing the data according to any of these variables, the level of confidence in the results decreases. The sampling error associated with estimates based on smaller groups within the sample is greater.

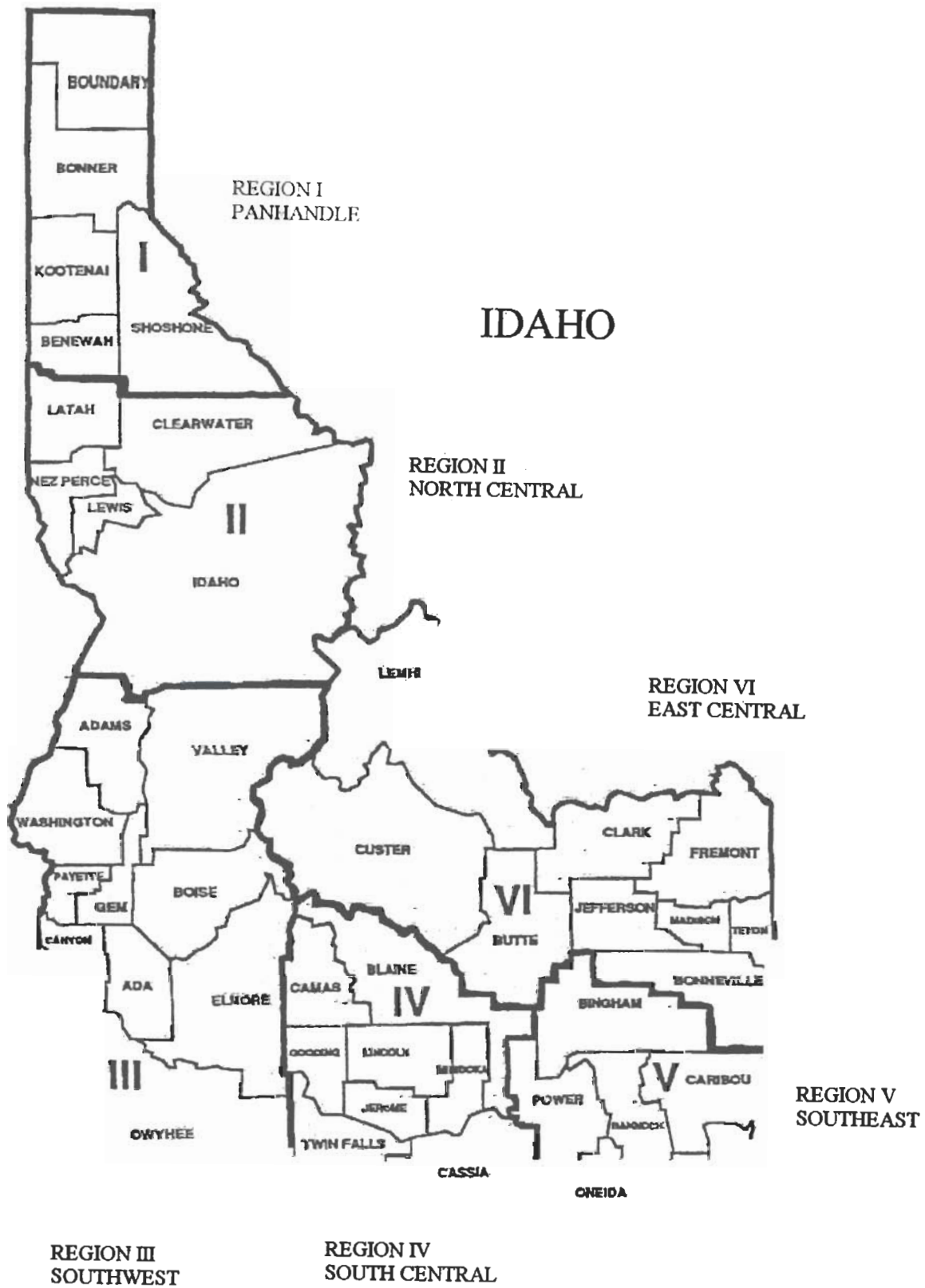
The survey was conducted using a computer-aided telephone interviewing system. Using this method, the survey is read from a computer screen and responses are entered as the interviewer asks questions of the respondent. The survey program allows the interviewer to ask questions in the same sequence each time with every respondent. The program dials the telephone numbers through a random-digit dialing system and connects with respondents. This method preserves the anonymity of respondents. Respondents are not asked their names and they are not recorded. Confidentiality is maintained throughout the interviewing process.

All surveys of population samples contain sampling error. The first problem is associated with the fact that not all residents in the state can be accessed by telephone. This may result in an under-representation of certain groups in the population. A second problem is related to the fact that some people have not formed opinions on public policy issues. In these cases, respondents may respond with answers that they have not previously considered. Asking screening questions that help determine the willingness and interest in responding to the survey mitigates this problem.

### **Idaho's Regions**

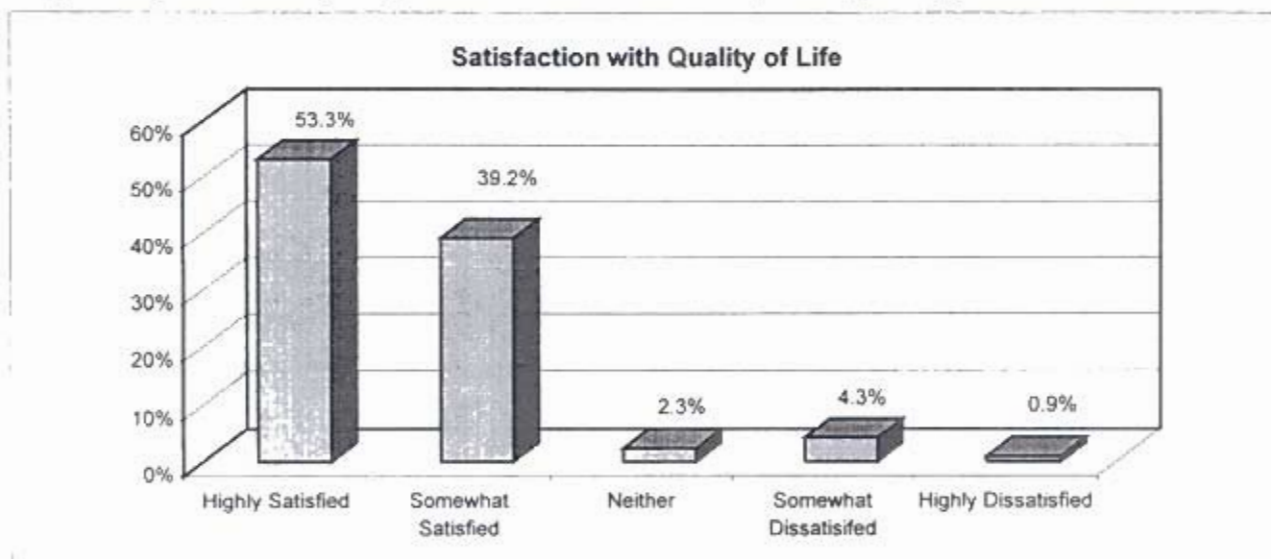
Idaho is administratively divided into six regions (see map on the following page). The northern region (Region I) is the panhandle of Idaho and includes the five northernmost counties and the city of Coeur d'Alene. Region I borders on Canada, Washington and Montana. Region II encompasses five north-central counties, including the cities of Lewiston and Moscow where the University of Idaho is located. Region III is located in the southwest part of the state and includes the cities of Boise, Nampa, Caldwell, McCall, and Mountain Home. Oregon lies to the west and Nevada to the south of Region III. Region IV is located in south-central Idaho and includes Twin Falls and Sun Valley. Nevada borders on the south of Region IV. Region V is in the southeast part of the state where Pocatello is the principal city. Wyoming borders Region V to the east and Utah to its south. Region VI includes the mountains of central Idaho and the upper Snake River plain, the city of Idaho Falls, and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. Montana lies to the north of the Region and Wyoming to its east.





## Quality of Life

Thinking about your overall quality of life as a resident of Idaho, would you say you are satisfied?



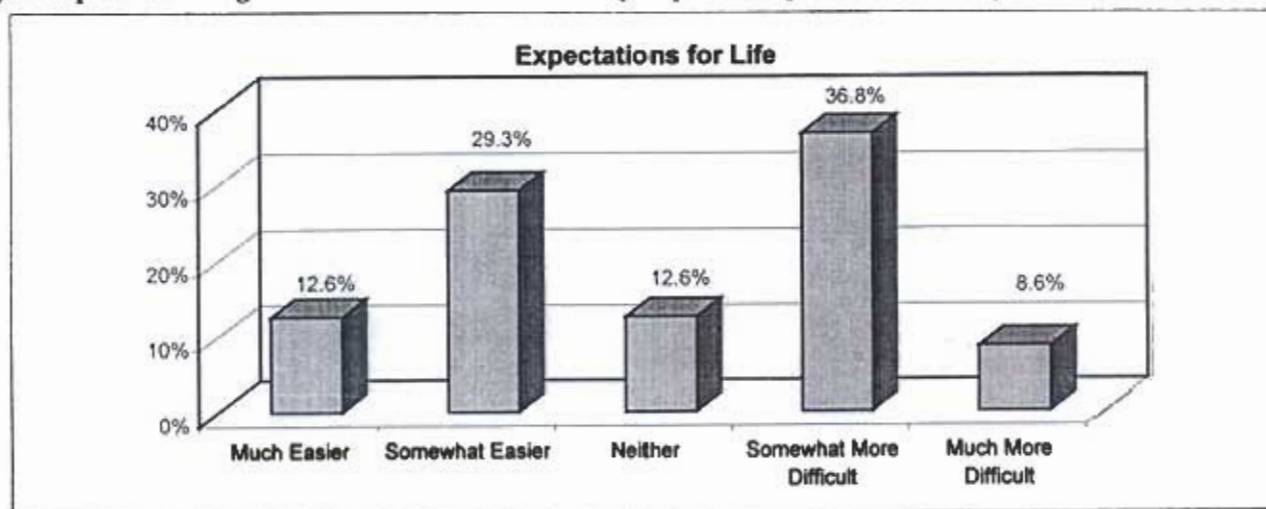
\* A large majority of citizens (92%) are highly satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their quality of life in Idaho. Only five percent are somewhat dissatisfied or highly dissatisfied.

\* Citizens with an education level of high school or less are somewhat more likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of life in Idaho.

\* Idahoans who earn less than \$20,000 per year are somewhat more likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of life.

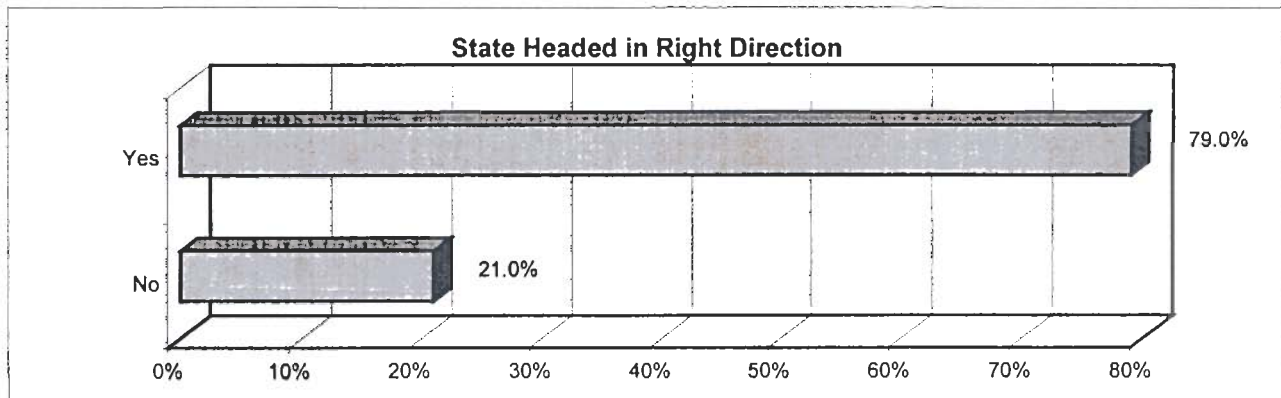
\* Citizens under age 20 are more likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of life.

Do you expect life will get easier or more difficult for you personally in the next ten years?



- \* About 40 percent of Idahoans expect life to get easier in the next ten years. Nearly 45 percent expect life to get more difficult.
- \* Idahoans in the North Central region are the most likely to expect that life will get easier in the next ten years while residents of South Central region are the most likely to expect life will get more difficult.
- \* Liberal Idahoans are much more likely than either conservative or middle-of-the-road citizens to expect that life will get easier.
- \* Idahoans with a high school or less education are much more likely than those with a bachelor's or higher degree to expect life to get more difficult.
- \* Urban Idahoans are more likely than rural ones to expect life to get easier.
- \* Respondents under the age of 20 and over the age of 60 are much more likely to expect life to become more difficult.
- \* Citizens who earn less than \$20,000 per year are the most likely to expect life to get more difficult.

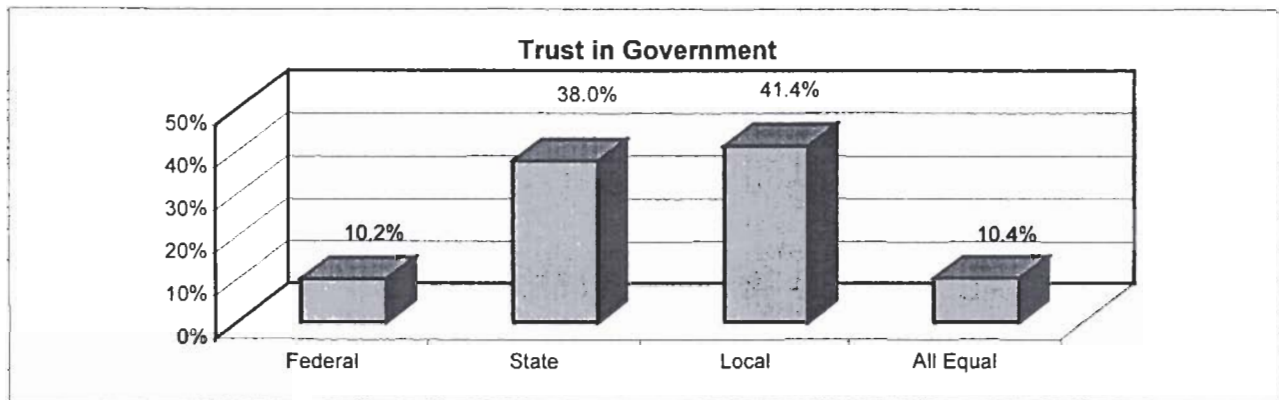
**In general terms, do you think the state is headed in the right direction?**



- \* Most of respondents (79%) believe the state is headed in the right direction.
- \* Idahoans in North Central Idaho are the least likely among the regions to believe that the state is headed in the right direction.
- \* Republicans and Independents are more likely than Democrats to believe that the state is headed in the right direction.
- \* Conservative and middle-of-the-road Idahoans are more likely than liberal ones to believe that the state is headed in the right direction.

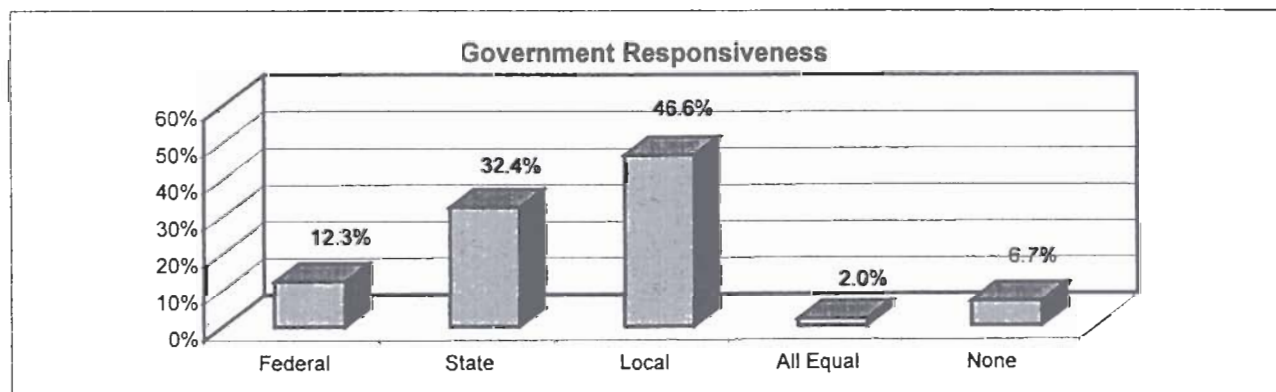
## Government and Taxes

In general, do you have the most trust in federal, state, or local government?



- \* Idahoans have much less trust and confidence in the federal government than they do in local and state government.
- \* Idahoans living in East Central Idaho are the least likely to have the highest level of trust and confidence in the federal government and the most likely to have such trust in local government.
- \* Democrats are much more likely to have the highest level of trust and confidence in the federal government. Republicans and Independents are the most likely to trust local and state governments.
- \* Liberal Idahoans are the most likely to trust the federal government and the least likely to trust local government. Conservatives are more likely to trust state and local governments.

Which level of government do you think best responds to your needs?

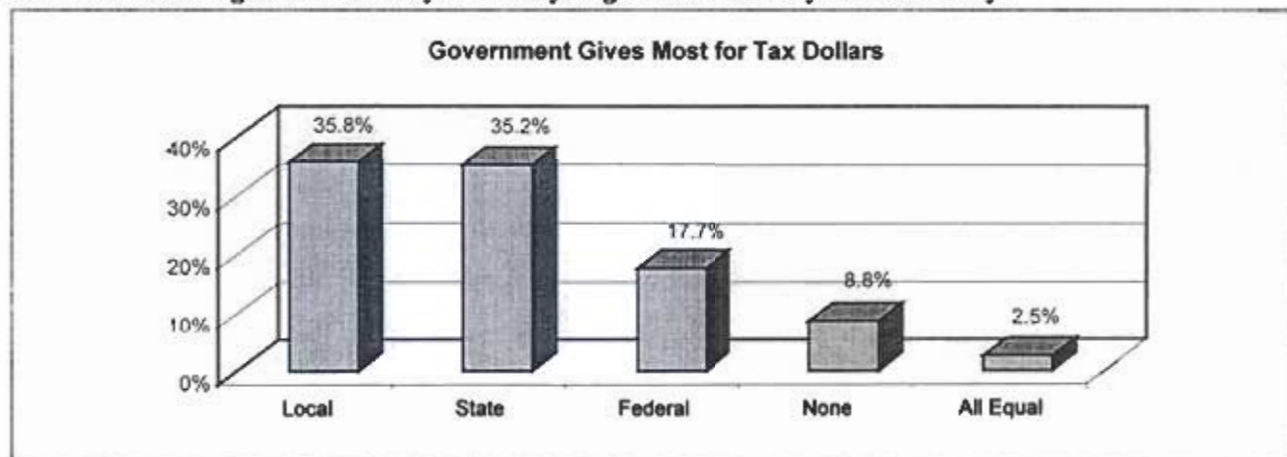


- \* Nearly half of Idahoans believe that local government best responds to their needs. A third believe that state government best responds to their needs and 13 percent believe that the federal government is best.
- \* Idahoans living in North Central and South Central Idaho are most likely to feel that state government best responds to their needs. Those living in East Central Idaho are the least likely to feel that the federal government best responds to its needs.
- \* Democrats are most likely to feel that the federal government best responds to their needs while Republicans are most likely to feel that state government does so.



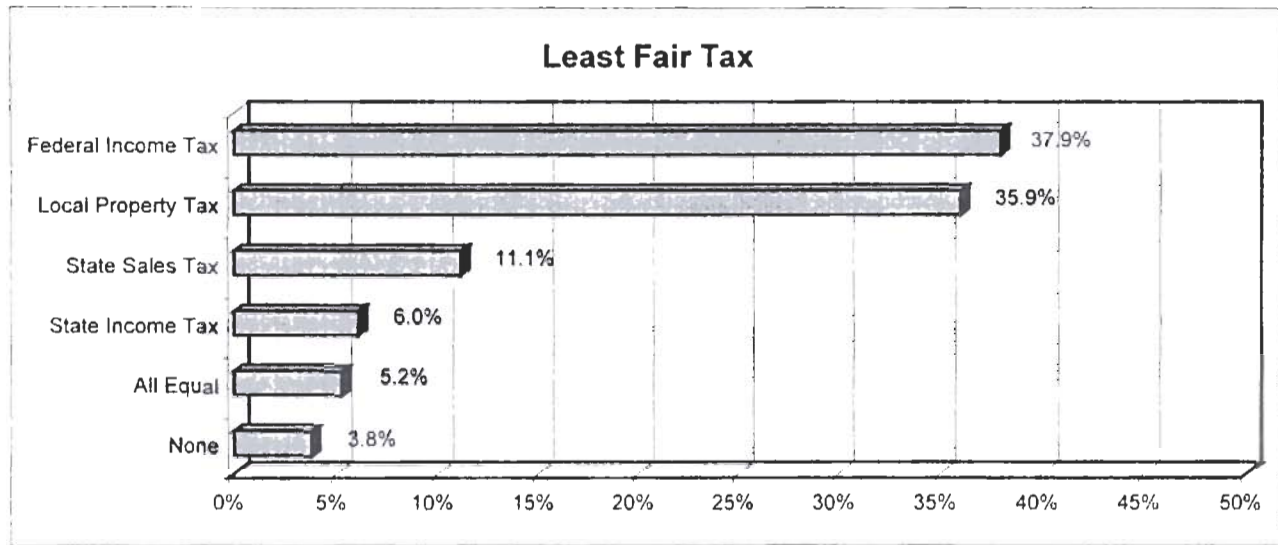
- \* *Republicans and Independents are more likely than Democrats to feel that local government best responds to their needs.*
- \* *Liberals and middle-of-the-road Idahoans are much more likely than conservatives to feel that the federal government best responds to their needs.*
- \* *Conservative and middle-of-the-road citizens are much more likely than liberals to feel that state government best responds to their needs.*
- \* *Liberals and conservatives feel that local government best responds to their needs in very similar proportions (about 50%).*
- \* *Idahoans with a high school or lower education level are the most likely to believe that the federal government best responds to their needs and are the most likely to feel that no level of government responds to their needs.*
- \* *Idahoans with a bachelor's or higher degree are the most likely to believe that state government best responds to their needs.*
- \* *Citizens earning less than \$20,000 per year are much more likely than other income brackets to feel that the federal government best responds to their needs.*
- \* *Citizens earning between \$20,000 and \$40,000 are much more likely than those in the lowest earning bracket to feel that local government best responds to their needs.*

**From which level of government do you think you get the most for your tax money?**



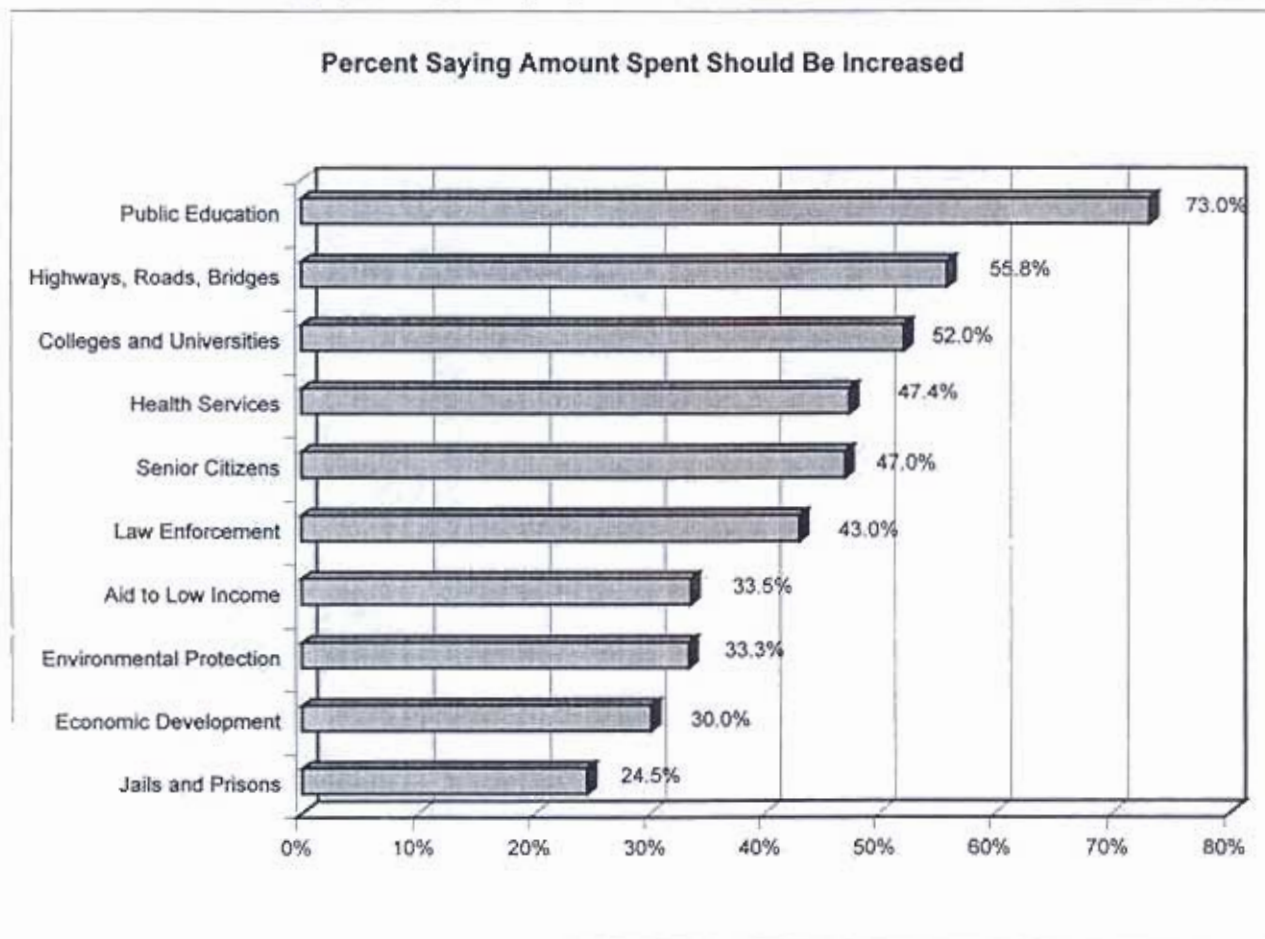
- \* *State and local governments are almost equally perceived as providing the most for taxpayer money.*

Which of the following taxes do you think is the least fair?



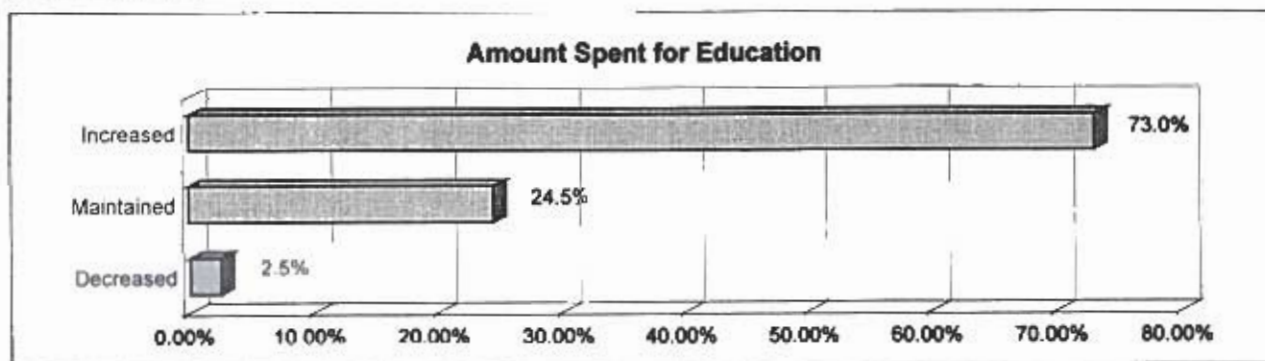
- \* The federal income tax and the local property tax are believed to be the least fair taxes by Idahoans.
- \* Residents of North Central Idaho are the least likely to feel that the federal income tax is the least fair tax and the most likely to feel that the local property tax is the least fair.
- \* Residents of East Central Idaho are the most likely to feel that the federal income tax is very unfair.
- \* Respondents in Southwest Idaho are the least likely to feel that the local property tax is very unfair.
- \* Republicans and conservatives are the most likely to feel that the federal income tax is the least fair while Democrats and liberals are the most likely to feel that the local property tax is the least fair tax.
- \* The higher an Idahoan's annual income is, the more likely he or she is to feel that the federal income tax is the least fair tax.

Should the amount now being spent on public programs be increased, maintained, or reduced?



Each of these categories are analyzed in the following pages:

**Public education received the largest number of responses indicating the amount spent on the program should be increased.**



\* *Middle-of-the-road and liberal Idahoans are more likely than conservatives to think that Idaho should increase spending on public education.*

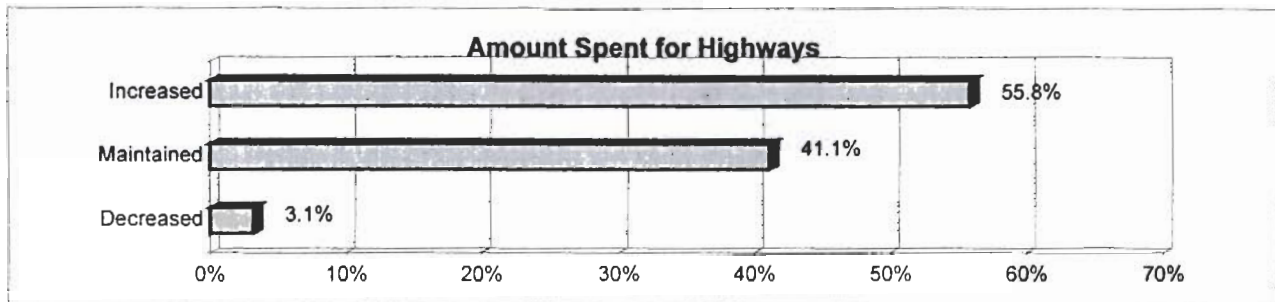
\* *Conservatives are most likely to think that such spending should be maintained at the current level.*

*\* Younger Idahoans are much more likely than older ones to believe that spending on education should be increased.*

*\* Citizens with a bachelor's or higher degree are more likely to think that spending for education should be increased.*

*\* Citizens who earn less than \$20,000 per year are less likely than those who earn more than \$40,000 to think that education spending should be increased.*

**Over half of citizens believe that spending on highways, roads, and bridges should be increased while 41% believe that it should be maintained at the present level.**



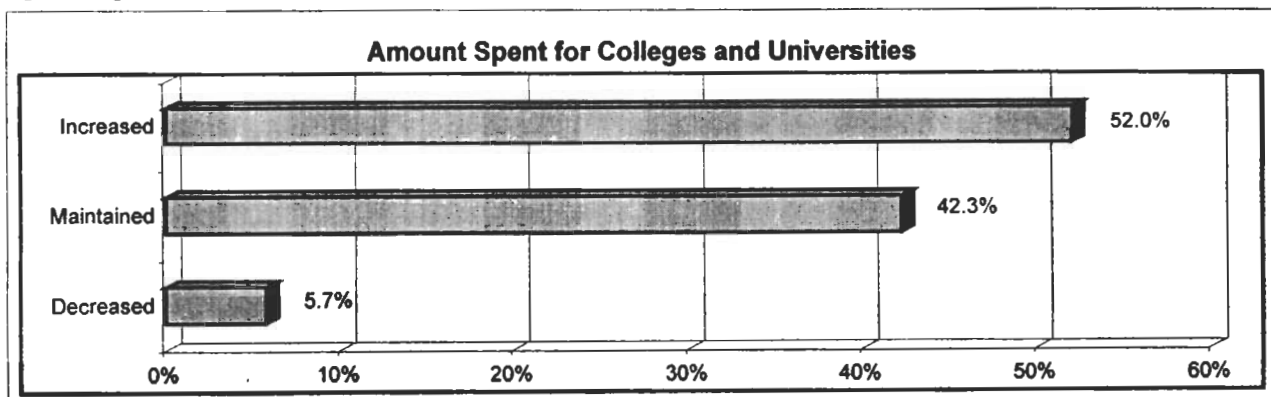
*\*Conservative and middle-of-the-road citizens are more likely than liberal ones to think that spending on highways, roads, and bridges should be increased.*

*\*Citizens with a high school or lower education level are more likely to think that such spending should be increased.*

*\*Idahoans who earn less than \$20,000 per year are more likely to think that spending for highways, roads and bridges should be increased.*

*\*Residents of the Panhandle and North Central Idaho are much more likely than other regions to think that spending on highways, roads, and bridges should be increased.*

**Few Idahoans believe that spending on colleges and universities should be decreased. Most believe that such spending should be increased.**

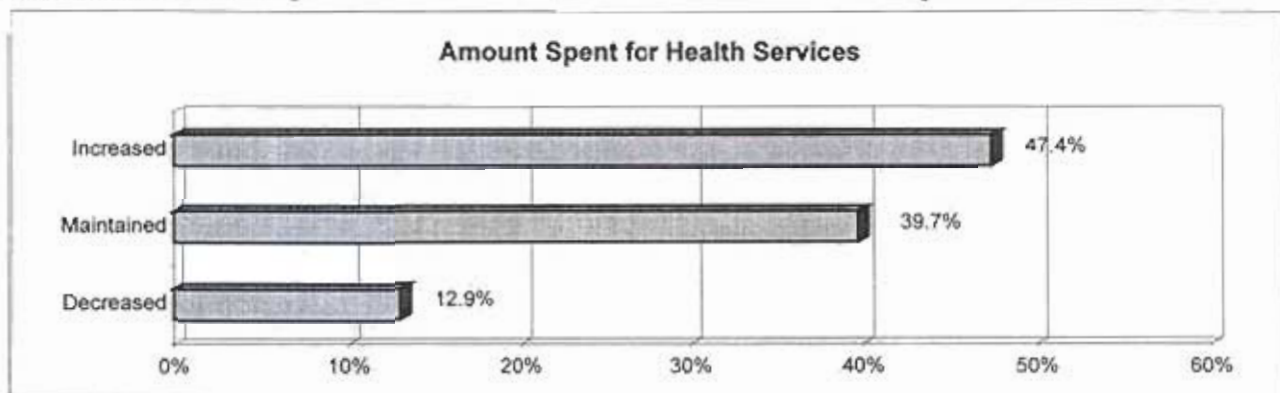


*\* Democrats are much more likely to think that spending on higher education should be increased. Republicans and Independents are more likely to think spending should be maintained at the current level.*



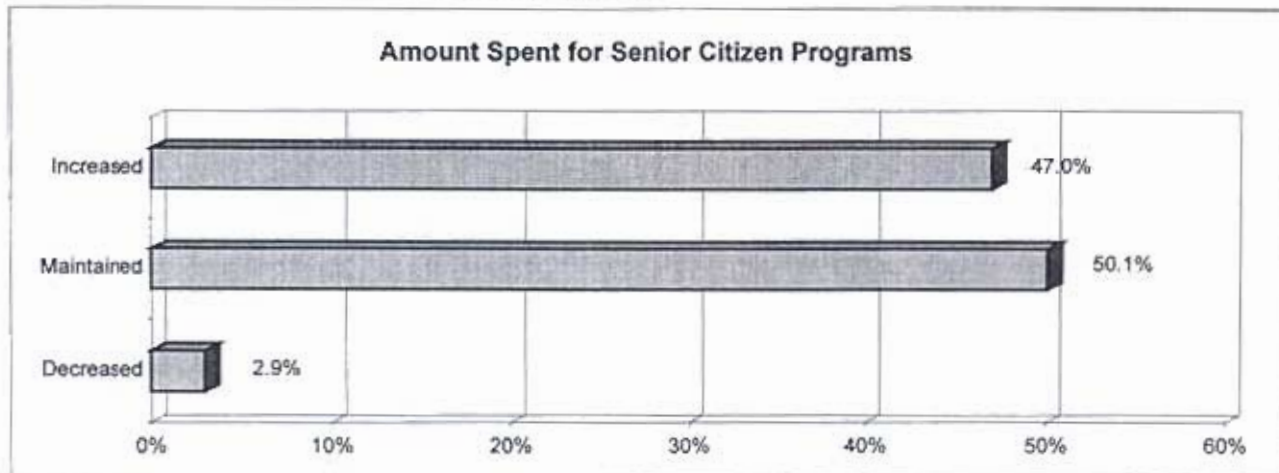
- \* *Liberal Idahoans are much more likely to think that spending on higher education should be increased, whereas conservative and middle-of-the-road Idahoans are more likely to think that spending should be maintained.*
- \* *Citizens with a bachelor's degree or higher are much more likely to think that spending on higher education should be increased.*
- \* *Citizens with a high school or lower education are more likely to think that such spending should be decreased.*
- \* *Younger Idahoans are more likely than older ones to believe that spending on higher education should be increased.*

**Forty-seven percent of Idahoans believe that spending on health services to the uninsured should be increased while almost 40 percent believe that it should be maintained at the present level.**



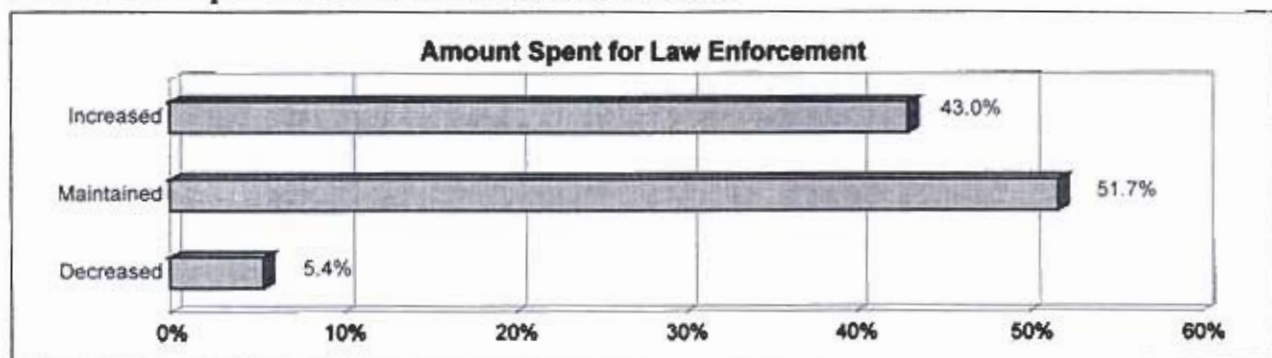
- \* *Democrats are most likely to think that spending on health services to the uninsured should be increased while Republicans are most likely to think that such spending should be maintained at current levels.*
- \* *Liberal and middle-of-the-road Idahoans are most likely to think that such spending should be increased while most conservatives think that such spending should be maintained.*
- \* *Citizens with less than a bachelor's degree education level are more likely to think that such spending should be increased.*
- \* *Rural Idahoans are more likely to think that such spending should be increased than their urban counterparts.*
- \* *Idahoans who earn less than \$20,000 are more likely to think that such spending should be increased.*
- \* *Females are much more likely than males to support increased spending on health services to the uninsured.*

Half of Idahoans believe that spending on senior citizen programs should be maintained at the present level while nearly half believe that it should be increased.



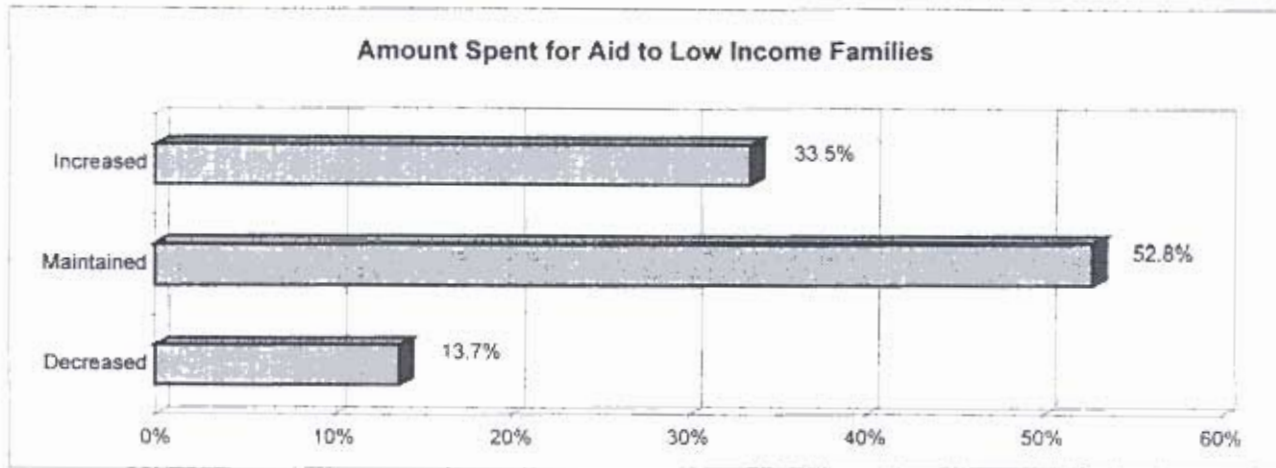
- \* Democrats and Independents are the most likely to think that such spending should be increased.
- \* Conservatives are less likely to think spending on senior citizen programs should be increased.
- \* Idahoans with a high school or lower education level are much more likely to think that such spending should be increased.
- \* Residents of the Panhandle and North Central Idaho are less likely than other regions to support increased spending on senior citizen programs.
- \* Women are more likely than men to think that such spending should be increased.

More than half of Idahoans believe that the present spending level on law enforcement should be maintained while 43 percent believe that it should be increased.



- \* Liberal Idahoans are less likely to think that spending on law enforcement should be increased and the most likely to think spending should be maintained at current levels.
- \* Females are more likely than males to think that such spending should be increased.
- \* Idahoans who are 70 and older are the least likely age group to think that law enforcement spending should be increased.
- \* Residents of South Central Idaho are more likely than residents of other regions to support increased spending on law enforcement.

**Half of Idahoans believe that spending on aid to low income families should be maintained at the present level and a third believe it should be increased.**



*\* Democrats are twice as likely as Republicans to think that such spending should be increased. Republicans are three times likelier than Democrats to think that such spending should be decreased.*

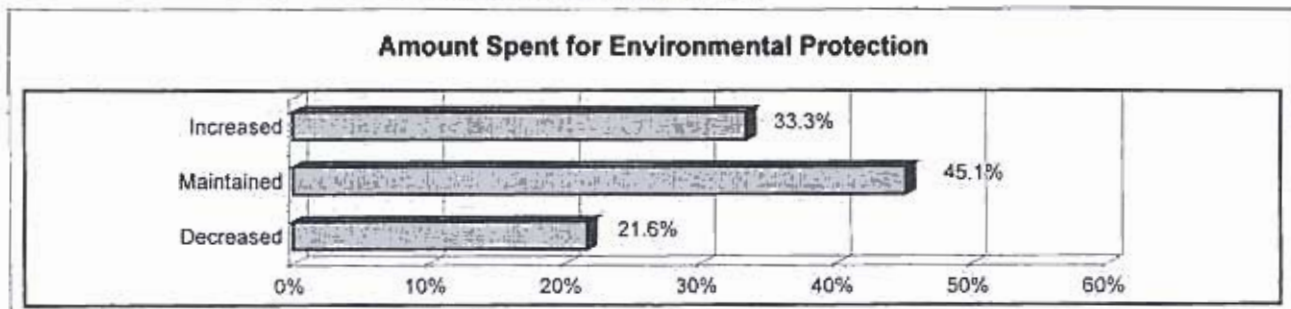
*\* Liberal Idahoans are much more likely to think that government spending for low income families should be increased. Conservative and middle-of-the-road Idahoans are most likely to think that such spending should be maintained at current levels.*

*\* Citizens with a high school or lower education level are more likely to think that such spending should be increased.*

*\* Citizens who earn less than \$20,000 per year are much more likely to support increased spending on aid to low income families.*

*\* Women are more likely than men to think that such spending should be increased.*

**A third of Idahoans believe that spending on environmental protection should be increased while 45 percent believe that it should be maintained at the present level.**



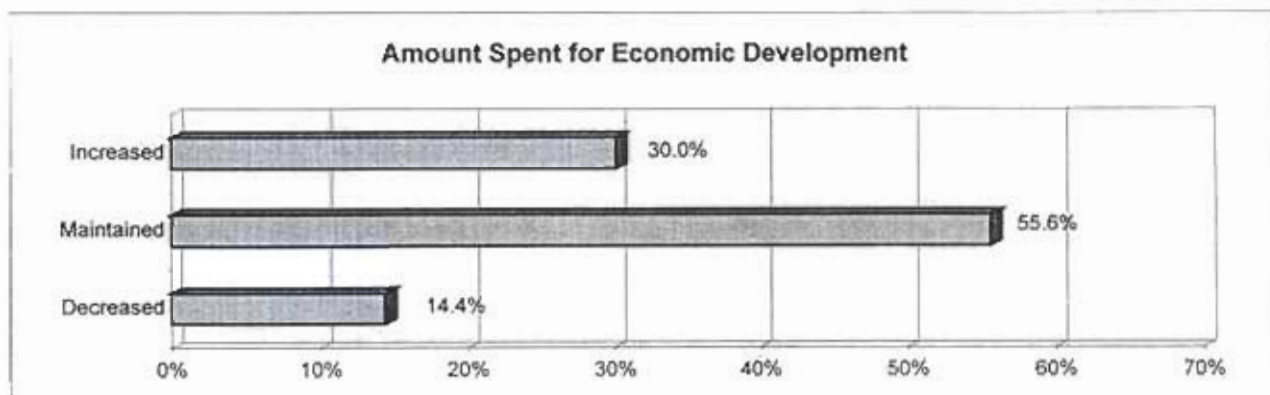
*\* Democrats are much more likely to think that spending on environmental protection should be increased while Republicans are more likely to think that it should be decreased.*

*\* Middle-of-the-road and liberal Idahoans are much more likely to think that spending on environmental protection should be increased while conservatives are most likely to believe that it should be decreased.*



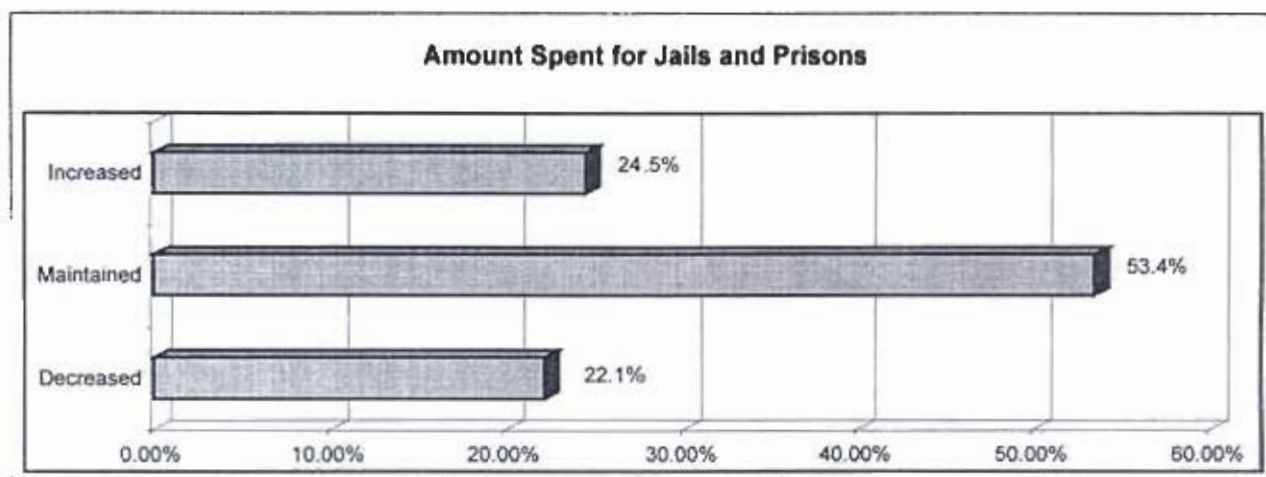
- \* *Citizens with a bachelor's or higher degree are more likely to think that environmental spending should be increased.*
- \* *Rural Idahoans are more likely than urban ones to think that spending on environmental protection should be increased.*
- \* *Younger Idahoans (under 30 years of age) are more likely than older ones to think that environmental spending should be increased.*
- \* *Residents of South Central Idaho are most likely to think that spending on environmental protection should be increased.*
- \* *Respondents from the North Central region are least likely to support increased environmental spending.*
- \* *Residents of the Panhandle region are most likely to favor decreased environmental spending.*

**Over half of Idahoans believe that spending on economic development should be maintained at the present level.**



- \* *Citizens who earn less than \$20,000 per year are more likely than those earning over \$75,000 per year to think that spending on economic development should be increased.*
- \* *Residents of the Panhandle, North Central and Southeast Idaho are the most likely to think that spending on economic development should be increased. Residents of Southwest and South Central Idaho are most likely to think that it should be decreased.*

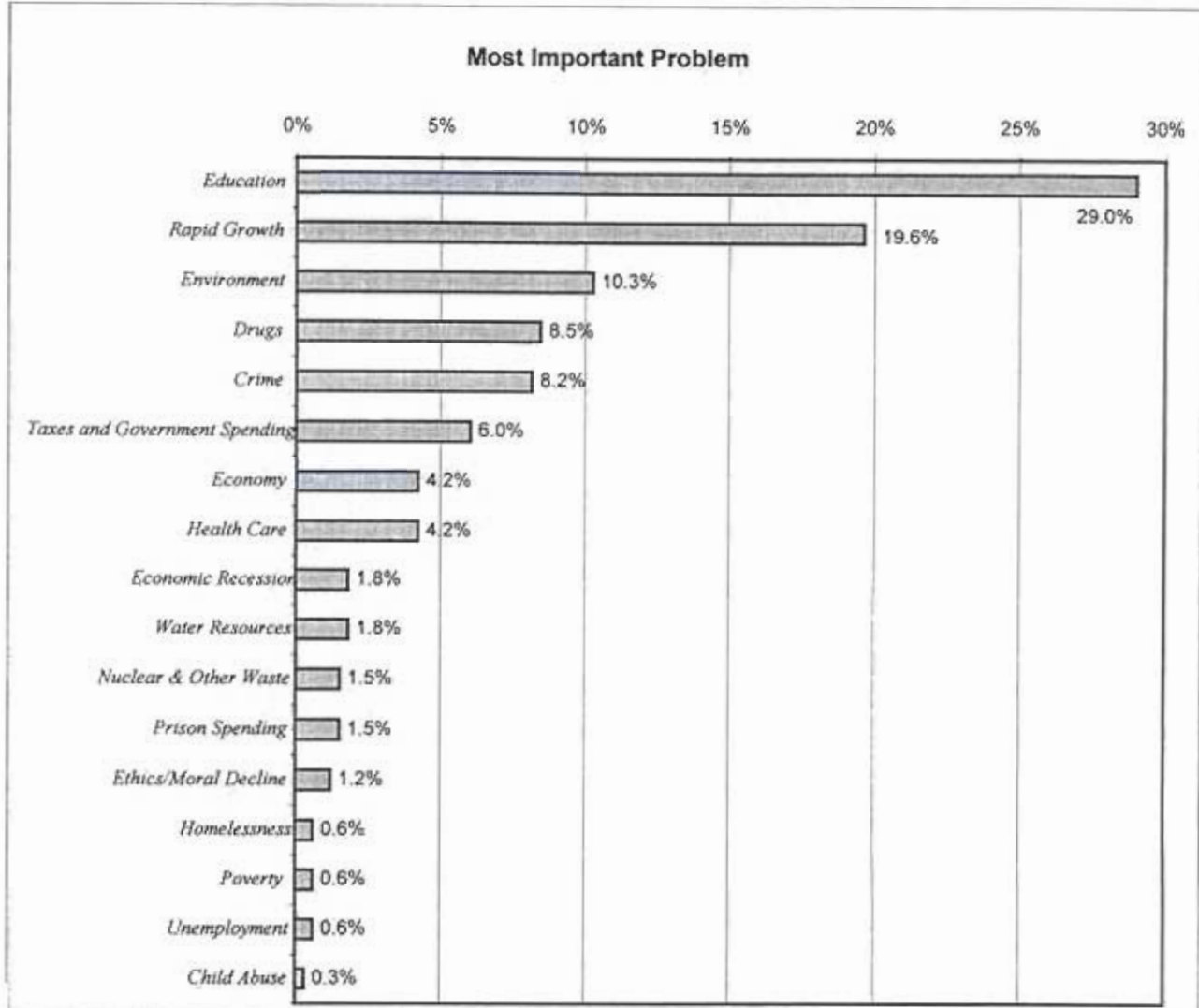
More than half of the respondents believe that spending on jails and prisons should be maintained at the present level while 24.5 percent believe that spending should be increased and 22.1 percent believe spending for jails and prisons should be decreased.



\* Ideas about prison spending are similar across regions and other demographic variables.

## Public Policy Issues

**In your opinion, what is the single most important problem facing Idaho today, the one that concerns you most?**



\* The five most important problems facing Idaho today, according to those surveyed, are: education, rapid growth, environment, drugs, and crime.

\* Republicans, Democrats, liberals, conservatives, and middle-of-the-road Idahoans all think that education is Idaho's most important problem.

\* Democrats and Independents are much more likely than Republicans to think that the environment is the most important problem.

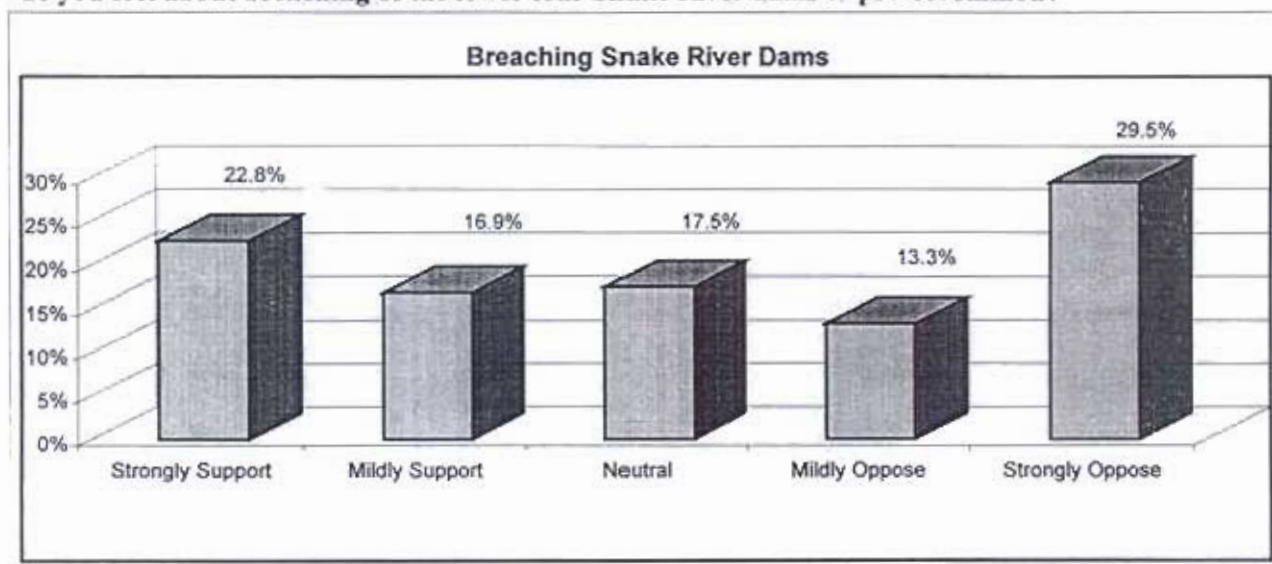
\* Liberals are the most likely to think that the environment is the most important problem.

\* Citizens with a bachelor's or higher degree are much more likely to think that education is the most important problem facing Idaho today.

\* Citizens with a high school or lower education level are much more likely to believe that drugs and crime are Idaho's most important problems.

- \* Idahoans in the highest income bracket are much more likely to feel that education is Idaho's most important problem than those in the lowest income bracket.
- \* Idahoans in the lowest income bracket (under \$20,000) are much more likely to feel that drugs are the most important problem.
- \* Women are much more likely than men to think that education is Idaho's most important problem. Men are much more likely to think that rapid growth is most important.
- \* Residents of the Panhandle are most likely to feel that education is Idaho's most important problem.
- \* Residents of Southwest and South Central Idaho are much more likely than residents of other regions to feel that rapid growth is Idaho's most important problem.

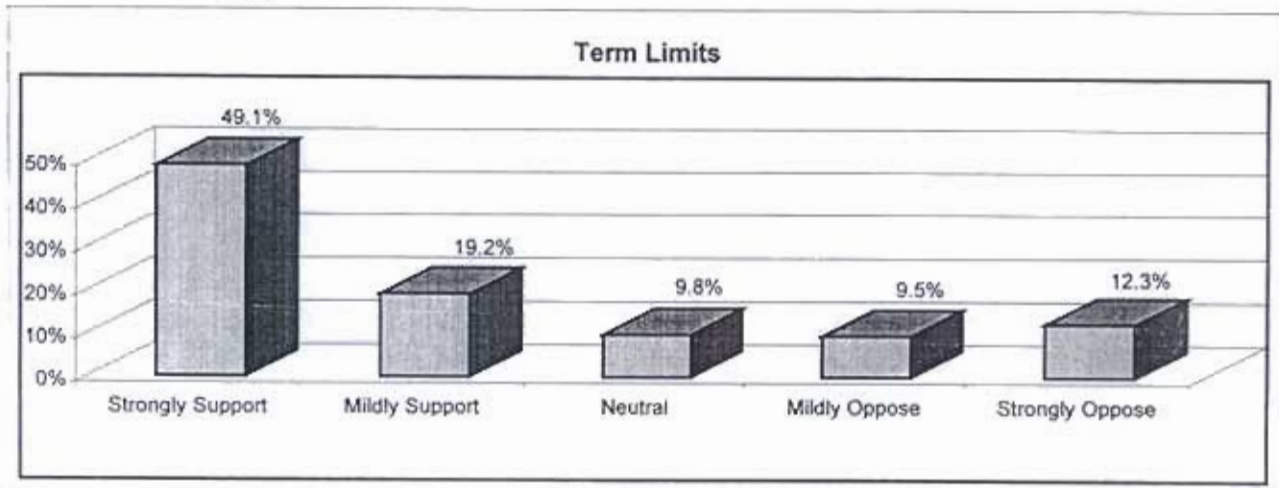
How do you feel about breaching of the lower four Snake River dams to protect salmon?



- \* Idahoans are divided on the issue of breaching the lower four Snake River dams to protect salmon. Approximately 40% support and 40% oppose breaching.
- \* Residents of the Panhandle region of Idaho are the most likely to support breaching the dams. Residents of North Central Idaho are the most likely to oppose breaching.
- \* Republicans and conservatives are more likely to oppose breaching the dams while Democrats and liberals are more likely to support breaching.
- \* The age group 30 to 49 are the most likely among age groups to support breaching the dams. The age group 70 and over are the most likely to oppose breaching.
- \* Females are more likely than males to support breaching the dams.
- \* Those with strong feelings on this issue are in the majority

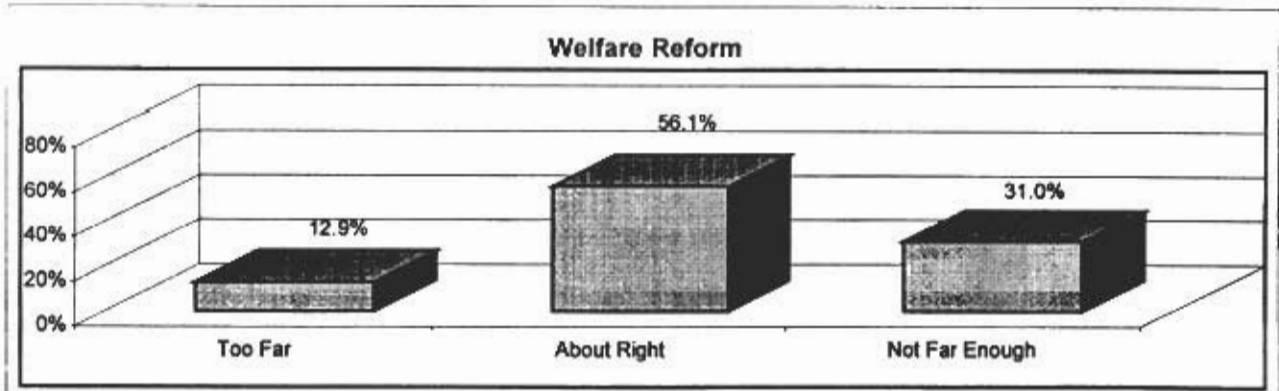


**Do you support or oppose allowing voters in each jurisdiction to decide whether term limits should apply to their own local officials?**



*\* Two-thirds of Idaho citizens support allowing voters to decide whether term limits should apply to their own local officials.*

**Do you think the Idaho legislature has gone too far, is about right, or has not gone far enough with its welfare reform legislation?**



*\* More than half of citizens believe that Idaho is about right with its welfare reform legislation. Twice as many people think the state hasn't gone far enough than think it has gone too far in welfare reform.*

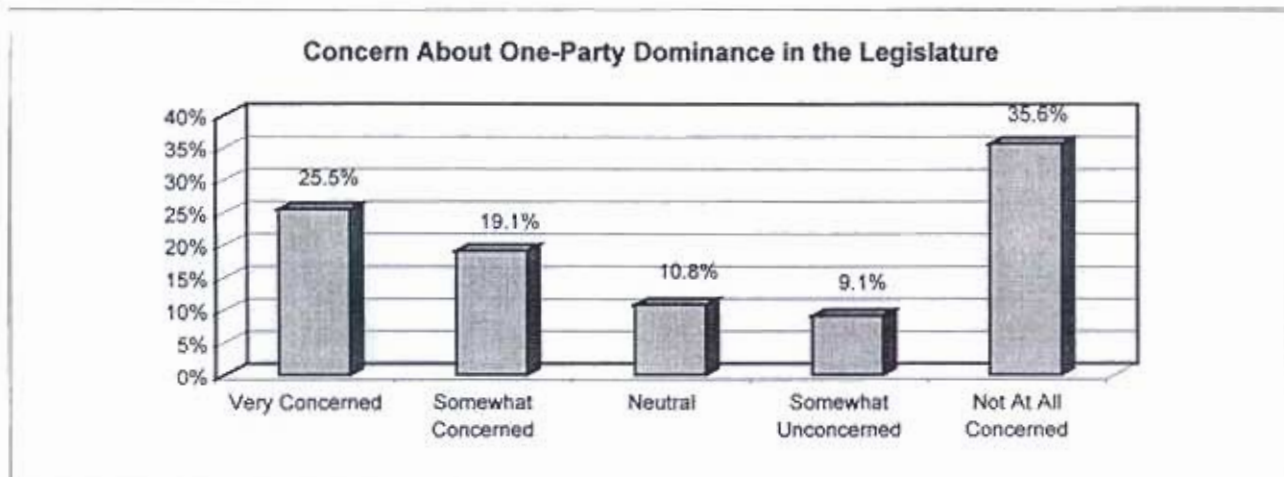
*\* Residents of North Central and Southwest Idaho are more likely than other districts to believe that Idaho has gone too far in its welfare reform. South Central Idaho residents are much more likely to believe that Idaho has not gone far enough.*

*\* Republicans are the least likely to believe that Idaho has gone too far in its welfare reform and the most likely to believe that welfare reform is about right.*

*\* Liberal Idahoans are most likely to think that the state has gone too far in its welfare reform while conservatives are most likely to believe that it is about right.*



**Idaho has the most Republican legislature in the country. How concerned are you about the dominance of Idaho politics by one party?**



\* Fifty-five percent of Idahoans are neutral, somewhat unconcerned or not at all concerned about Idaho having the most Republican legislature in the country.

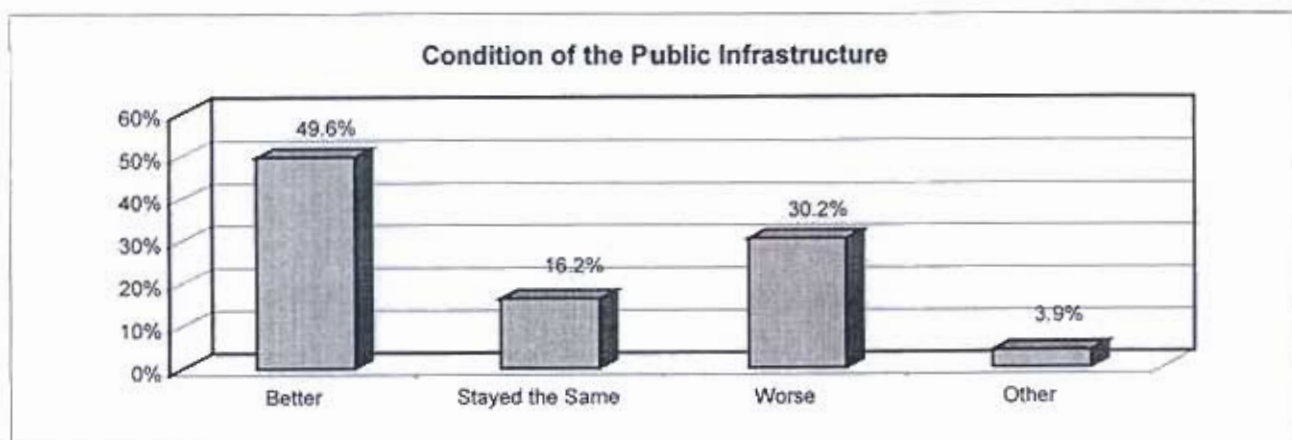
\* A majority of those living in East Central Idaho are not at all concerned about Idaho having the most Republican legislature in the country. A majority of those living in Southeast Idaho are either somewhat or very concerned about the dominance of Republicans in the legislature.

\* Democrats are very or somewhat concerned about Idaho having the most Republican legislature in the country while Republicans are either somewhat unconcerned or not at all concerned.

\* Liberal Idahoans are more likely to be concerned about Idaho having the most Republican legislature in the country.

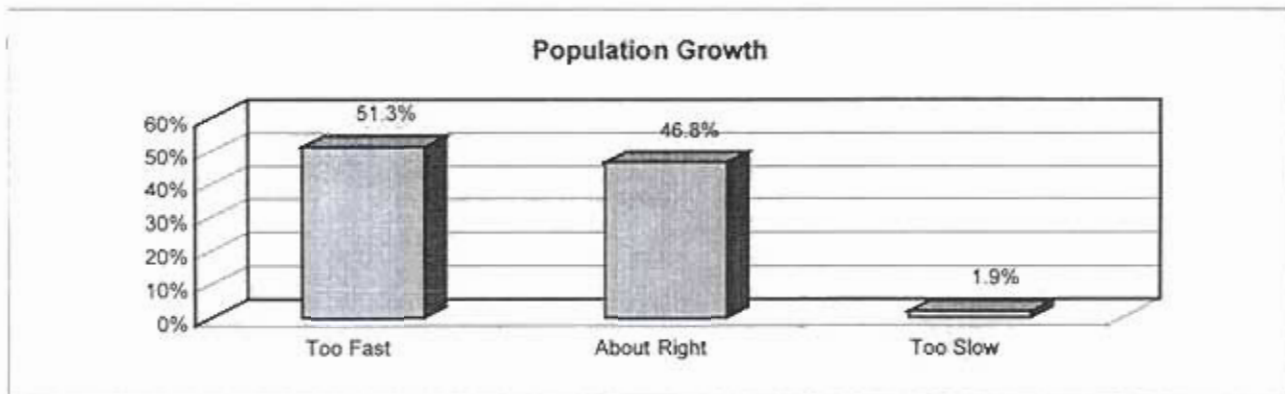
\* The more educated the Idahoan, the more likely they are to be concerned about Idaho having the most Republican legislature in the country.

**Do you believe roads, bridges, sewer systems, and other public infrastructures have gotten better or worse over the past few years?**



- \* Almost half of Idahoans believe that the condition of public infrastructure has improved over the past few years.
- \* The higher the annual income of Idahoans, the more likely they are to believe that public infrastructure has gotten worse over the past few years.
- \* Women are more likely than men to believe that public infrastructure has gotten better over the past few years.

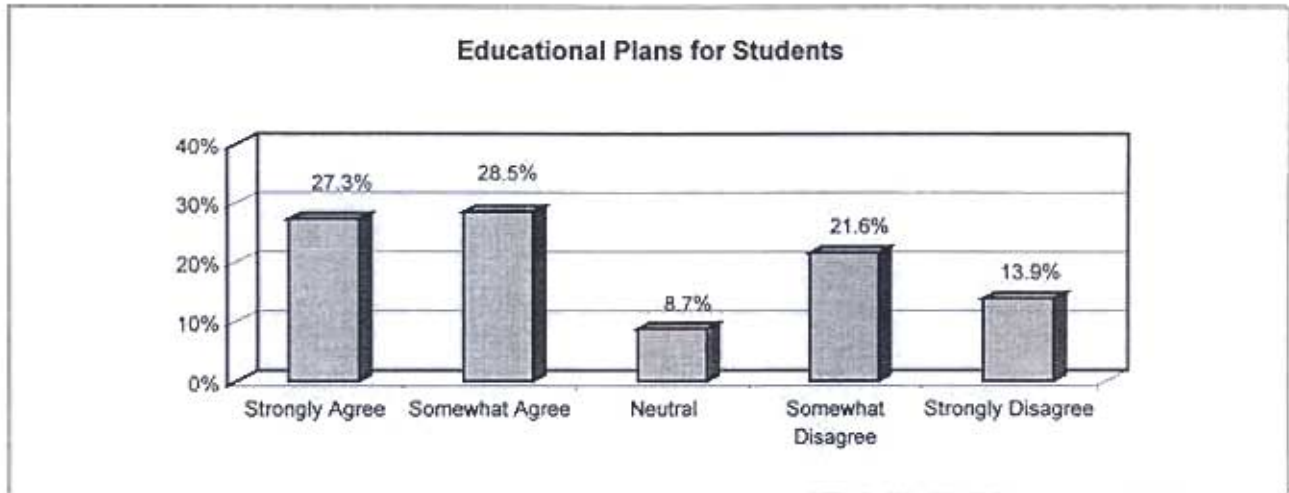
**Do you feel the current population growth rate in Idaho is too fast or too slow ?**



- \* About half of Idahoans believe that the current population growth in the state is too fast while 47 percent say that it is about right.
- \* Idahoans living in Southwest Idaho are most likely to believe that Idaho is growing too fast. A majority of those living in North Central Idaho believe that the growth rate is about right.

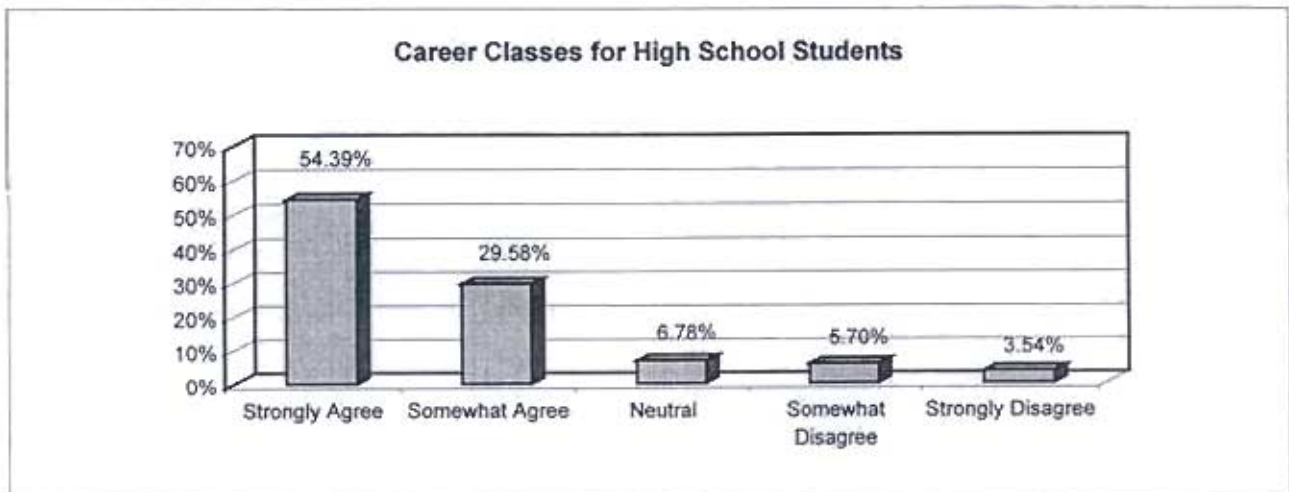
## Vocational Education

**Should Idaho students develop educational plans for a career by the time they are a sophomore in high school?**



- \* More than half of Idahoans agree that students should develop educational plans for a career by the time they are sophomores in high school.
- \* A majority of conservatives (about 59%) either strongly or somewhat agree with this statement, while a majority of liberals (about 51%) either somewhat or strongly disagree with this statement.
- \* The more education Idahoans have, the more likely they are to either somewhat or strongly disagree with this statement.

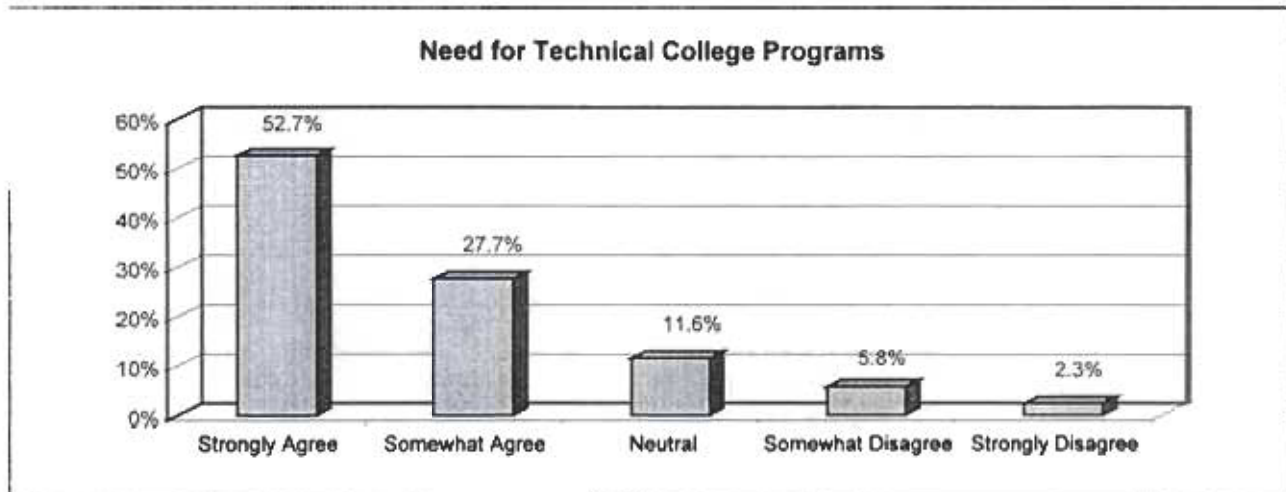
**High school students should be offered more opportunities to take classes designed for a specific career. Do you agree?**



## Vocational Education

- \* A majority of Idahoans strongly agree that high school students should be offered more opportunities to take classes designed for a specific career.
- \* Idahoans with a high school or less education are the most likely to agree with this statement.
- \* In general, the higher the annual income Idahoans earn, the less likely they are to strongly agree with this statement.

**Idahoans need more one and two year technical college programs designed to prepare people for an occupation. Do you agree?**

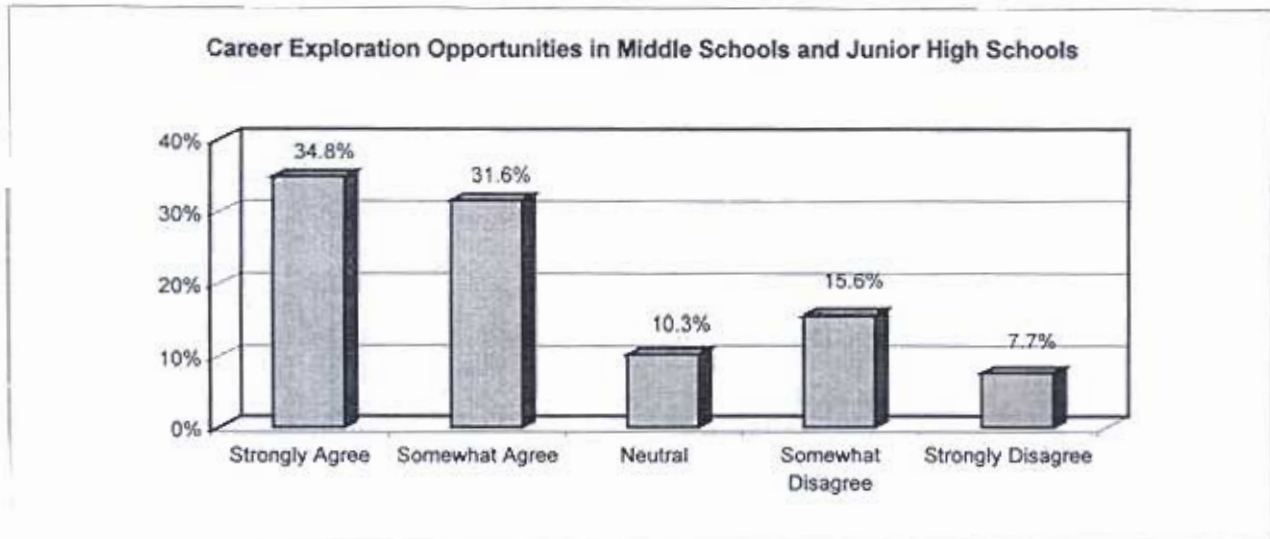


- \* A majority of Idahoans strongly agree that more one and two year technical college programs are needed.
- \* In general, the more education an Idahoan has, the more likely they are to either somewhat or strongly disagree with this statement.
- \* In general, the higher the annual income of an Idahoan, the less likely they are to either somewhat or strongly agree with this statement.



## Vocational Education

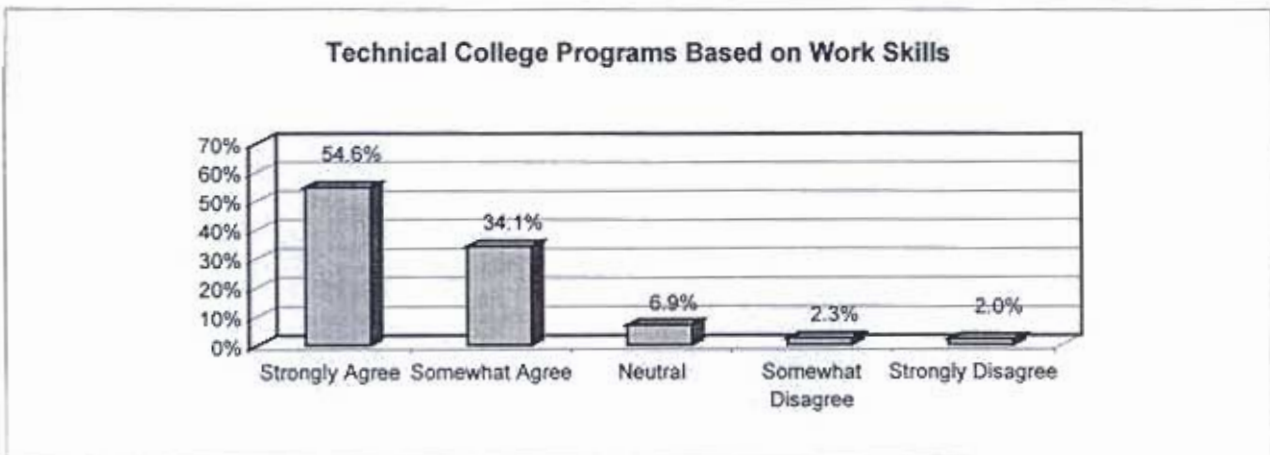
**Career exploration opportunities should be available in middle schools and junior high schools. Do you agree?**



*\* A majority of Idahoans either somewhat or strongly agree that career exploration opportunities should be available in middle schools and junior high schools.*

*\* Democrats are most likely to strongly agree that career exploration opportunities should be available in schools.*

**Technical college programs should be based on work skills that are needed in businesses and industries. Do you agree?**

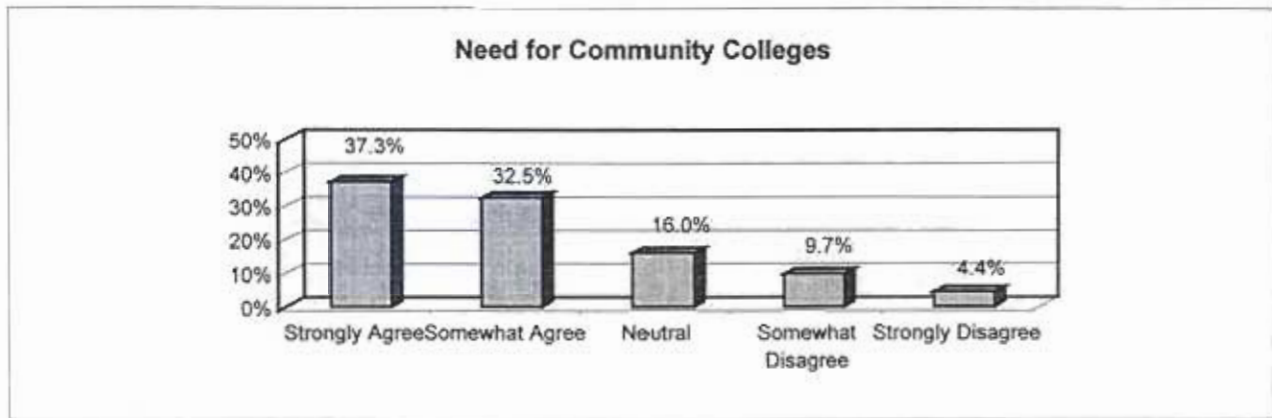


*\* Most Idahoans (89%) agree that technical college programs should be based on relevant work skills.*

*\* Citizens aged 70 and older are more likely than other age groups to agree with such a statement.*

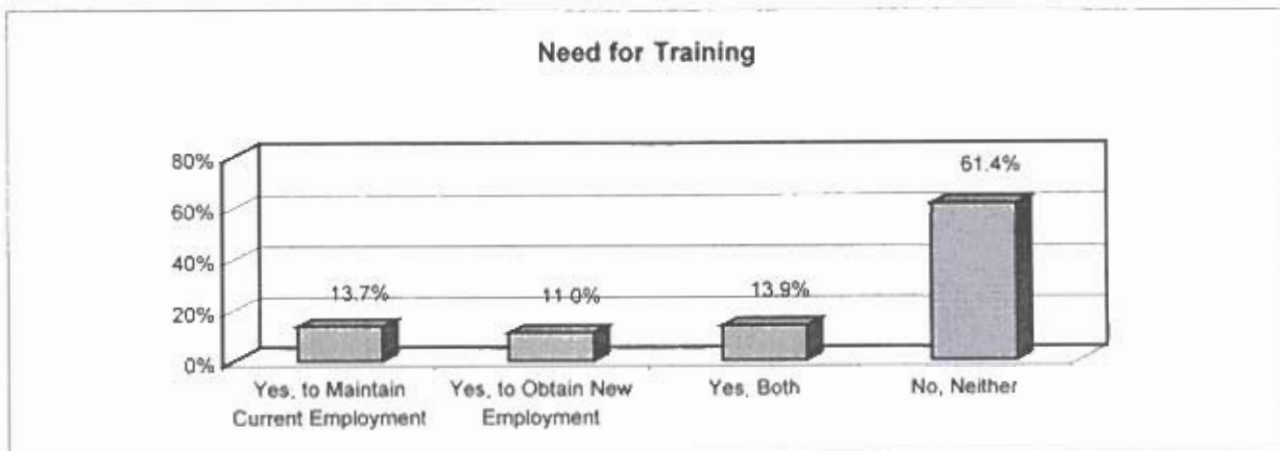
## Vocational Education

**Idahoans need more two-year academic programs (such as those offered by community colleges). Do you agree?**



- \* Sixty-nine percent of respondents agree that more two-year academic programs (such as community colleges) are needed in Idaho.
- \* Respondents in the Panhandle and Southwest Idaho are the most likely to agree with the need for two-year academic programs.
- \* Democrats are more likely to strongly agree than are Republicans and Independents.
- \* Liberal and middle-of-the-road citizens are more likely to agree than are conservatives.
- \* Those citizens who do not have a college degree are most likely to agree.
- \* Idahoans who earn less than \$50,000 per year are more likely to agree than those who earn more.

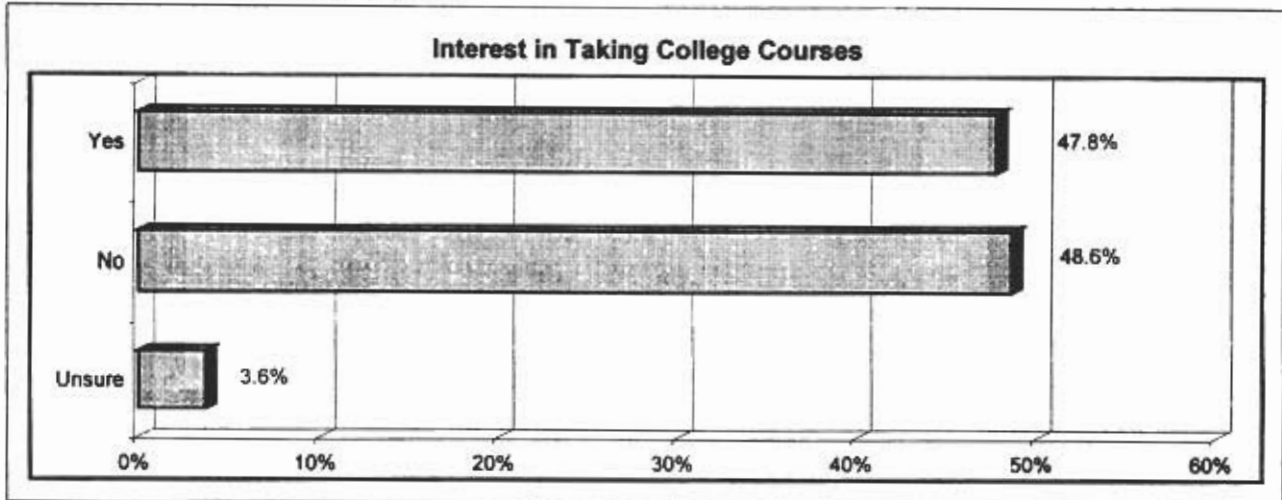
**Do you think you will need more training in the next twelve months to maintain your current employment or to obtain new employment?**



- \* Thirty-nine percent of Idahoans agree that they will need more training in the next year.
- \* Residents of Region 2 are the least likely to believe that they will need more training soon.
- \* Citizens from both the highest and the lowest income brackets are more likely to believe that they will not need more training than are those from the two middle income brackets.
- \* Women are more likely to believe that they will need more training to get a new job.

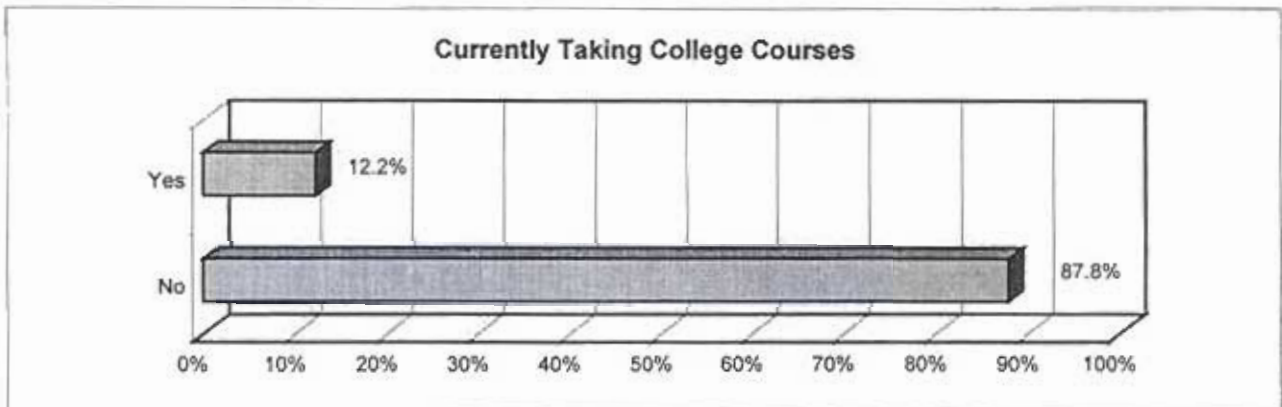
## College Courses

Would you like to take a college course?



- \* Idahoans are equally split about wanting to take a class.
- \* Idahoans with some college and those that possess a bachelor's or graduate degree are more likely to want to take a class.
- \* Idahoans under the age of 30 are more likely than other age groups to want to take a class. Those over 70 are the least likely to want to take a class.
- \* Idahoans with an income level of \$40,000 to \$75,000 annually are most likely to want to take a class. Those with an annual income of less than \$20,000 are least likely to want to take a class.

Are you taking a college course now?



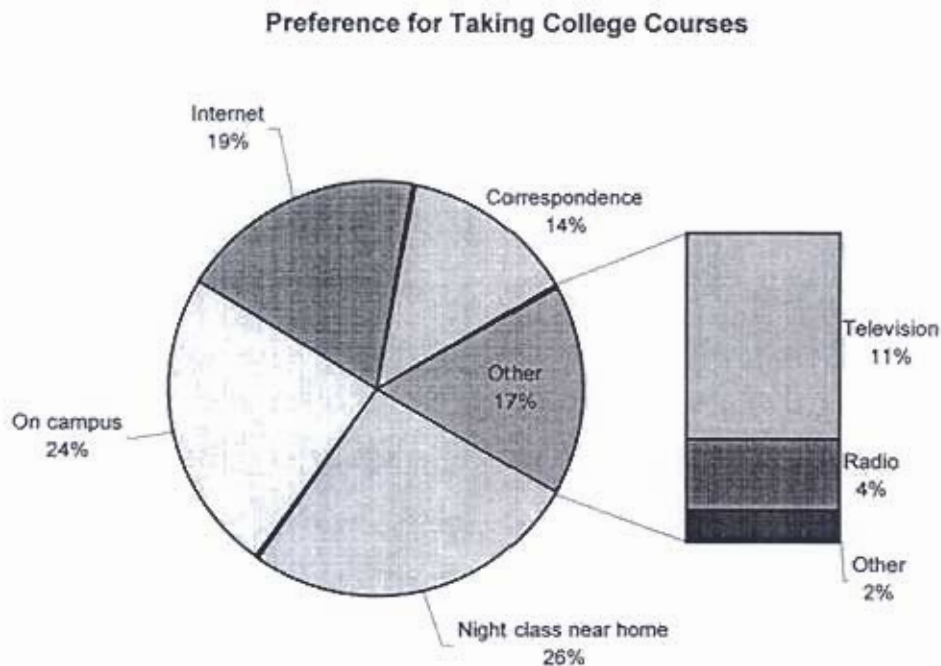
- \* The majority of Idahoans (87.82%) are not taking a class now.
- \* Idahoans living in Southwestern Idaho are slightly more likely than those living anywhere else to be taking a class.
- \* Idahoans with a bachelor's or graduate degree are the most likely to be taking a class now. Those with some college are more likely to be taking a class than are those without any college.



## College Courses

- \* Those under the age of 30 are the most likely to be currently taking a college class now.
- \* Idahoans with a household income between \$40,000 to \$75,000 are the most likely to be taking a class now. Those with an income below \$20,000 are the least likely to be taking a class.
- \* Females are slightly more likely than males to be currently taking a college class.

### By what delivery method would you prefer to take a college course?



- \* Night classes received the highest preference (26.29%) among Idahoans surveyed.
- \* Respondents with a high school or less education were more likely to prefer a night class than were those of any other education level.
- \* Idahoans living in rural areas were more likely to favor taking a night class than those in urban areas.
- \* Those Idahoans age 30 to 49 were more likely to prefer a night class than any other age group.
- \* Income was not a significant factor in wanting to take a night class.
- \* On-campus was the second most frequently chosen option by Idahoans (24.3%).
- \* Idahoans in North Central Idaho preferred taking classes on campus more than residents in any other region. Those living in East Central Idaho were the least likely to prefer taking a class on campus.
- \* Survey respondents with a bachelor's or graduate degree were the most likely to prefer taking classes on campus.
- \* Residents in urban areas were more likely to prefer taking a class on campus than were those living in rural areas.
- \* Idahoans under 30 were the most likely to prefer a class on campus.
- \* Survey respondents aged 50 to 69 were the second most likely to want to take a class on campus.

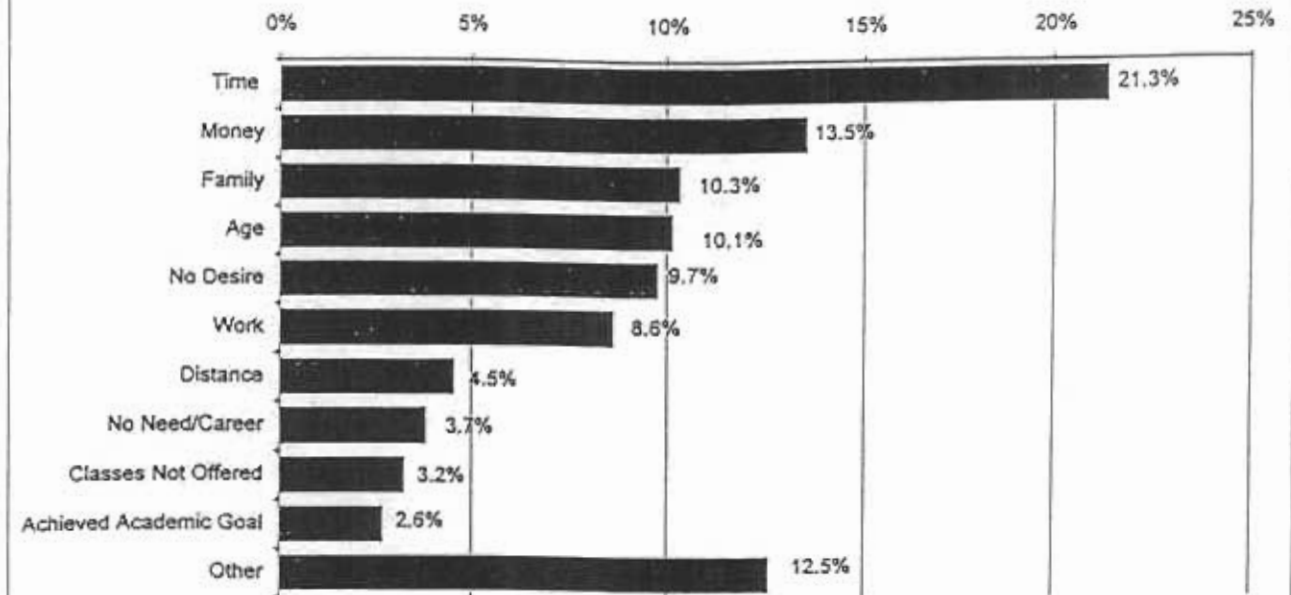


## College Courses

- \* *Taking classes on the Internet was the third most popular choice, with 18.78% of respondents selecting this option.*
- \* *Idahoans in South Central Idaho were the most likely to want to take a class on the Internet. Those living in Southeastern Idaho were the least likely to want to take a class on the Internet.*
- \* *Living in a rural or urban area did not influence the preference for taking a class on the Internet.*
- \* *Idahoans with a Bachelor or graduate degree were slightly more likely to want to take a class on the Internet than were those with some college. The majority of Idahoans with high school degrees or less did not want to take a class on the Internet.*
- \* *Idahoans aged 30 to 49 were the most likely to want to take a class on the Internet.*
- \* *Those with an income less than \$20,000 did not want to take a class on the Internet.*
- \* *Men were slightly more likely than women to prefer taking an Internet class.*
  
- \* *Taking college courses through correspondence was preferred by 13.85% of respondents.*
- \* *Idahoans living in North Central Idaho were the least likely to prefer correspondence courses.*
- \* *Idahoans with a high school degree or less were more likely to prefer correspondence courses than were those with some college or an advanced degree.*
- \* *Those living in rural areas were slightly more likely to prefer correspondence courses than were those living in urban areas.*
- \* *Women were slightly more likely than men to prefer correspondence courses.*
  
- \* *A few Idahoans surveyed (11.27%) would take a class offered through TV.*
- \* *Those living in Northern and Southwestern Idaho were slightly more likely than residents in other areas to prefer a TV course.*
- \* *Those under 30 were more likely than any other group to prefer taking a college course on TV.*
  
- \* *The concept of taking college courses over the radio was not a highly chosen option. Only 3.87% of Idahoans surveyed indicated radio as a preferred means of taking college courses.*
- \* *No factors significantly affected the preference for taking radio classes.*
  
- \* *Other options for taking college classes received virtually no support from Idahoans. Only 1.6% preferred other alternatives than those specified for taking college courses.*
- \* *Those with some college were the least likely to want to take other forms of college classes.*
- \* *Idahoans under the age of 30 did not prefer other options for taking classes.*

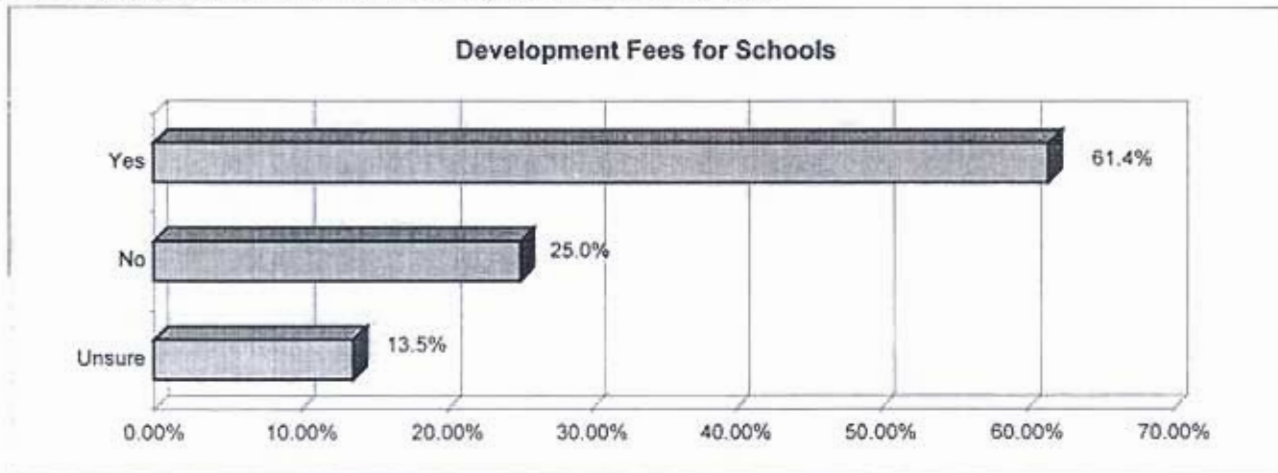
What, if anything, prevents you from taking classes?

### Top Ten Barriers to Taking A College Course



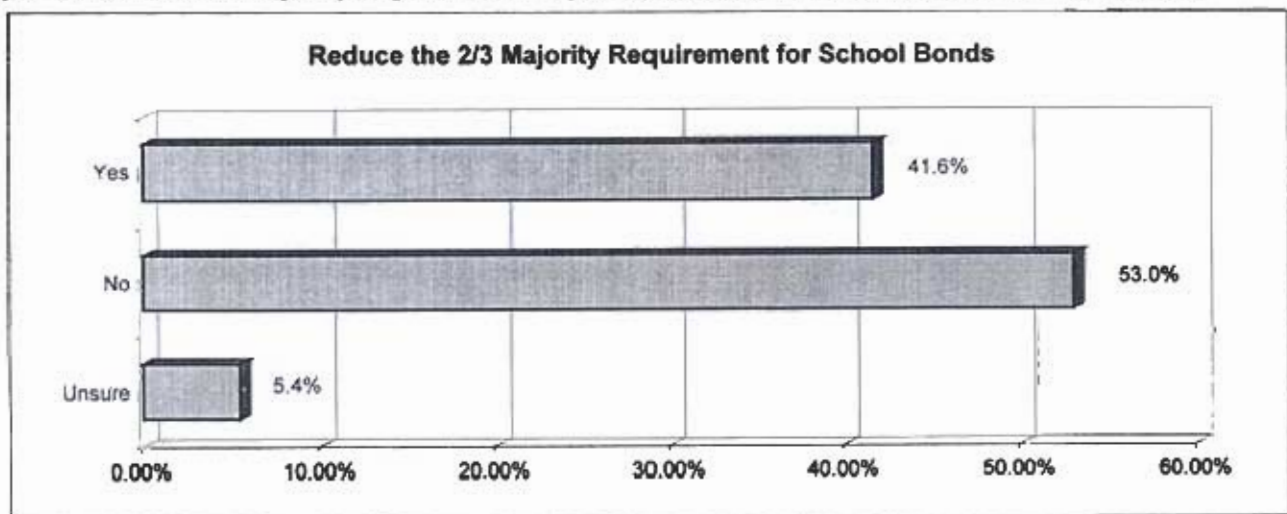
## Public School Policy

Should schools be authorized to impose fees on new developments, such as commercial construction or housing projects, to pay a share of the project's impact on schools?



- \* Sixty-one percent of respondents believe that schools should impose fees on new developments to help pay for their impacts on schools.
- \* Residents of the Panhandle and Southwest Idaho are the most likely districts to support impact fees.
- \* Residents of Southeast Idaho are least likely to support impact fees.
- \* Idahoans with a bachelor's or higher degree are more likely to support impact fees.
- \* Democrats and Independents are more likely than Republicans to support impact fees.
- \* Conservative Idahoans are more likely to say no to impact fees.

Do you believe the 2/3 majority requirement for passage of school bond elections should be reduced?

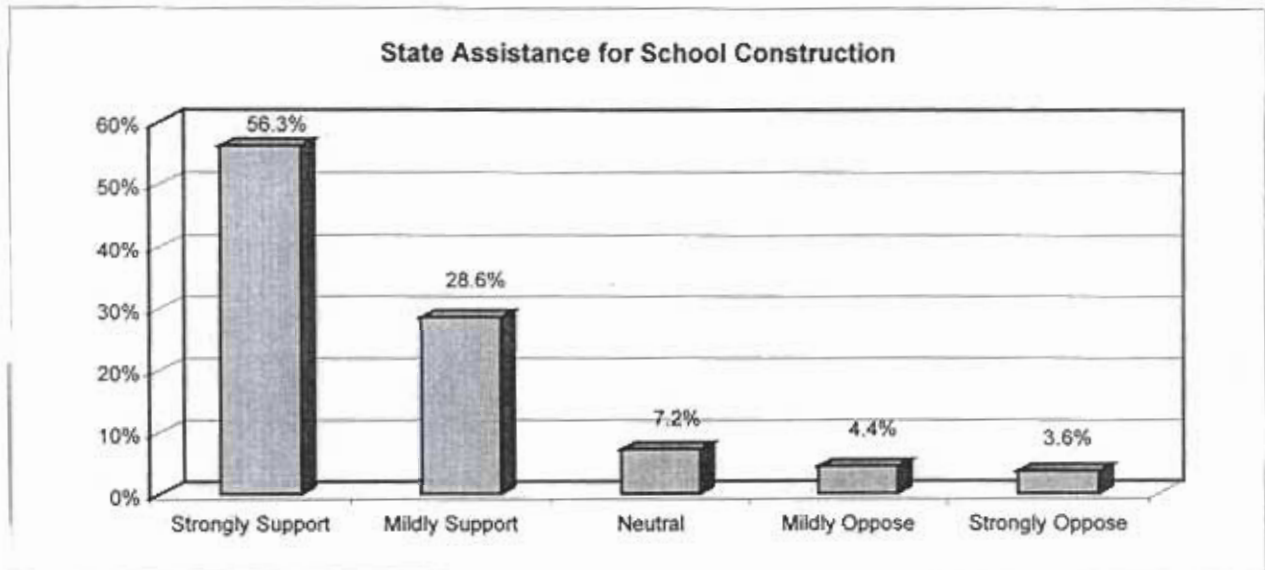


- \* A little more than half of Idahoans do not support a reduction in the 2/3 majority for school bond elections.

## Public Schools

- \* *Idahoans with a bachelor's or graduate degree are most likely to support reducing the 2/3 majority. Those with a high school diploma or less education are least likely to support a reduction.*
- \* *The higher their annual income, the more likely Idahoans are to support a reduction in the 2/3 majority.*
- \* *Democrats are the most likely to support a reduction in the 2/3 majority.*
- \* *Liberal Idahoans are more likely to support a reduction in the 2/3 majority.*

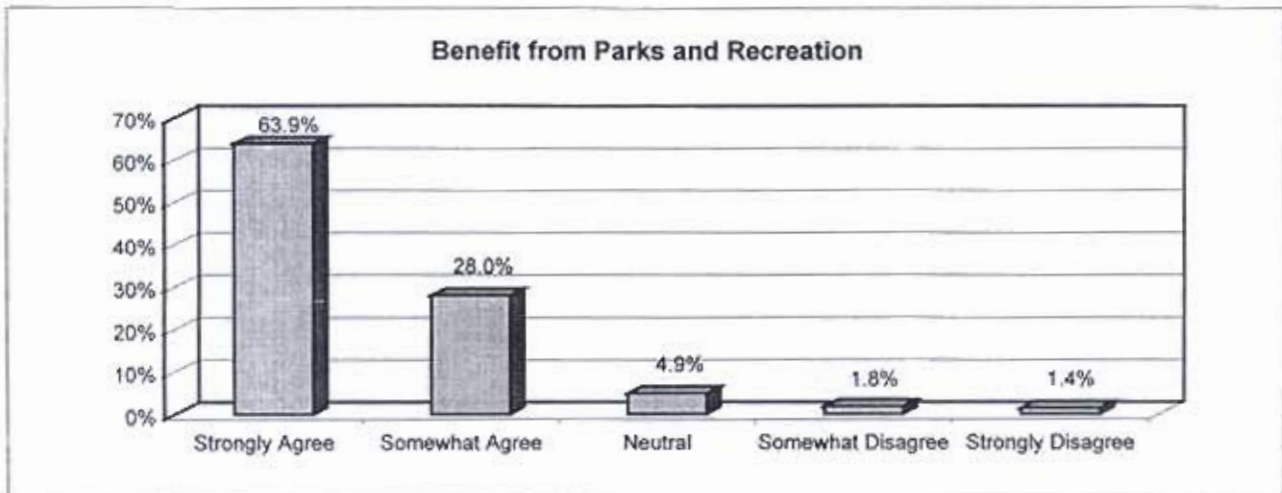
### Do you support state assistance for construction of school buildings?



- \* *A significant majority (84%) of Idahoans support using state funding for the construction of school buildings.*
- \* *Idahoans living in North Central Idaho were slightly less likely (79.7%) to support state funding of school building construction than were other regions (the six-region average is 85.2%).*
- \* *Those with a bachelor's or graduate degree were the most likely to strongly support state funding of school construction.*
- \* *Survey respondents with an income of \$20,000-\$50,000 were more likely to support using state funds for school construction than other income levels.*
- \* *Idahoans with an income of less than \$20,000 were the least likely to support state funds for school construction.*

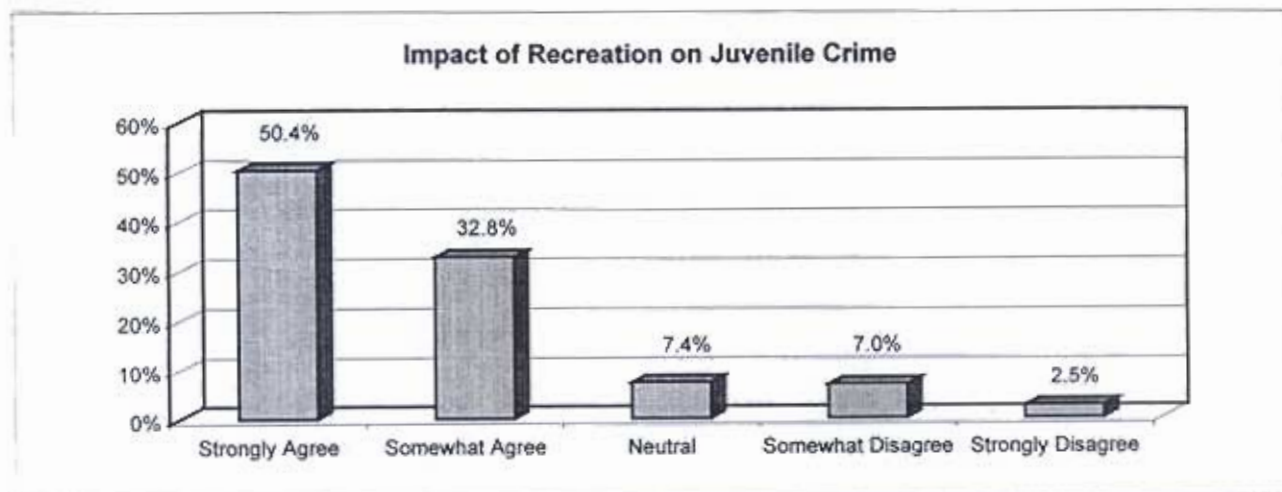
## Recreation Policy

**Do you agree with the statement that youth and other citizens benefit from parks and outdoor recreation opportunities?**



- \* Idaho citizens overwhelmingly agree with this statement (92%).
- \* Citizens with a bachelor's or higher degree are much more likely to agree that parks and recreation programs benefit citizens.
- \* Urban Idahoans are more likely than rural ones to agree.
- \* Wealthier Idahoans (i.e., those who earn more than \$50,000 annually) are much more likely to agree.

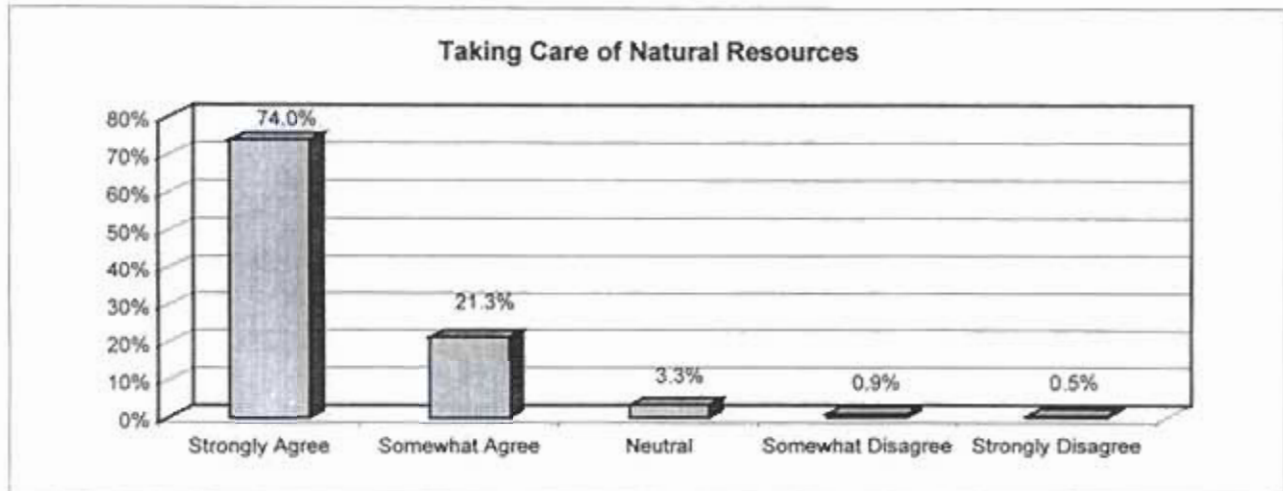
**Do you agree with the statement that state and community parks, organized sport leagues, swimming areas, and cross country ski instruction reduce juvenile crime?**



- \* Idahoans overwhelmingly agree with this statement (83%).
- \* There are no major differences among demographic variables.

## Recreation

**Do you agree with the statement that it is important for Idaho's citizens to learn about taking care of our natural resources?**

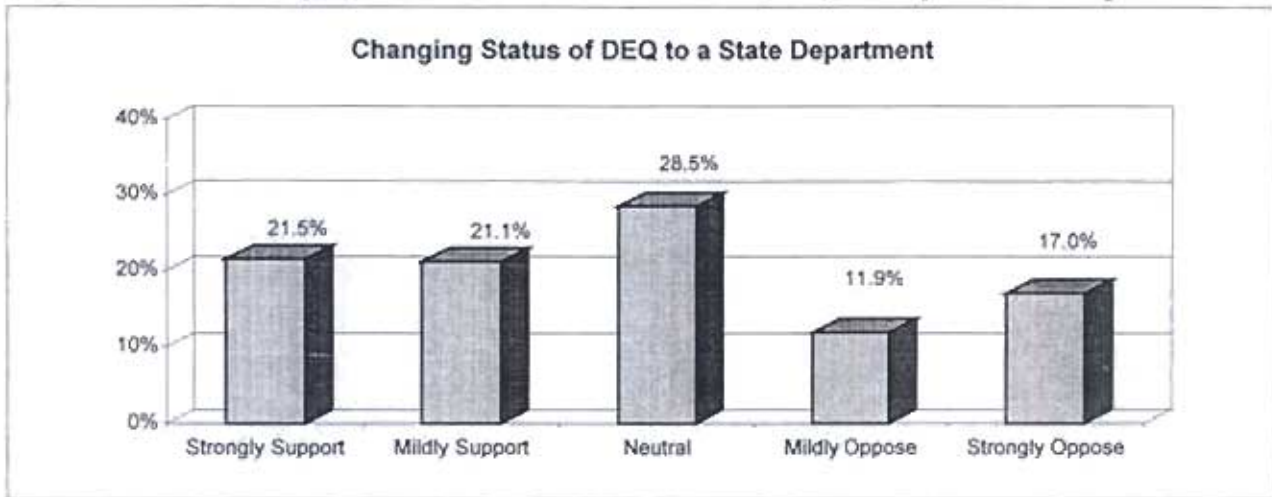


*\* Ninety-five percent of Idahoans agree with this statement. The high level of agreement was consistent across all demographic variables.*



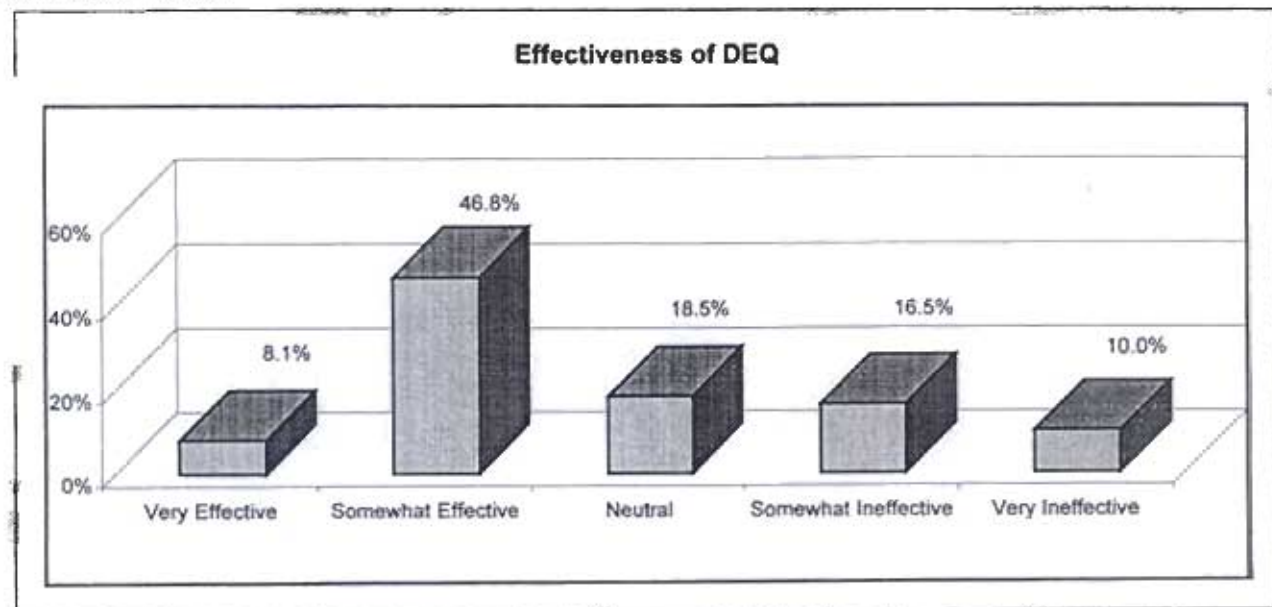
## DEQ and INEEL Policy

How do you feel about changing the Division of Environmental Quality to a separate state department?



- \* Over 40 percent of Idahoans support changing the Division of Environmental Quality to a separate state department while equal percentages (about 28%) were either neutral or opposed.
- \* Independents and Democrats are somewhat more likely than Republicans to think that DEQ should become a State department. Republicans are most likely to oppose the change.
- \* Liberal and middle-of-the-road Idahoans are more likely to support such a change than are conservatives. Conservatives support and oppose such a change equally.
- \* Citizens with a high school or lower education are more likely to oppose such a change.

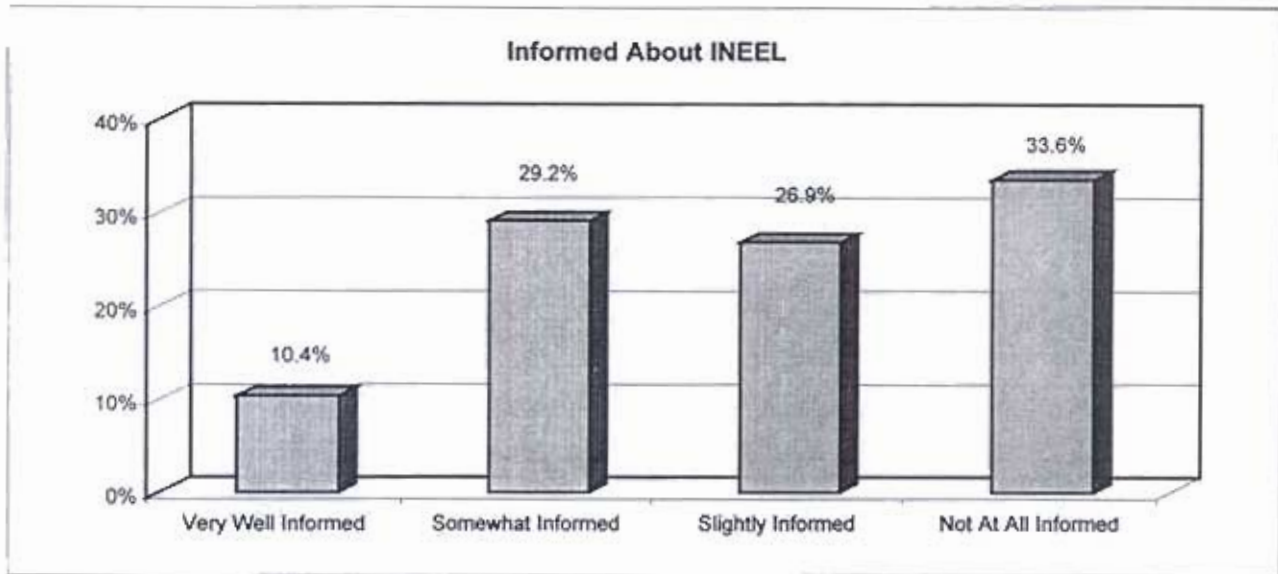
How effective do you think the current Division of Environmental Quality has been in protecting the environment in Idaho?



## DEQ-INEEL

- \* More than half of citizens think that the Division of Environmental Quality has been effective in protecting Idaho's environment while about one quarter think it has been ineffective.
- \* Residents of Southeast Idaho are the most likely to believe that DEQ has been very effective in protecting Idaho's environment. Residents of the Panhandle and East Central Idaho are somewhat more likely than other regions to believe that DEQ has been very ineffective.
- \* Women are more likely than men to believe that DEQ has been effective.
- \* Republicans and conservatives are somewhat more likely than Democrats and Independents to believe that DEQ has been effective.

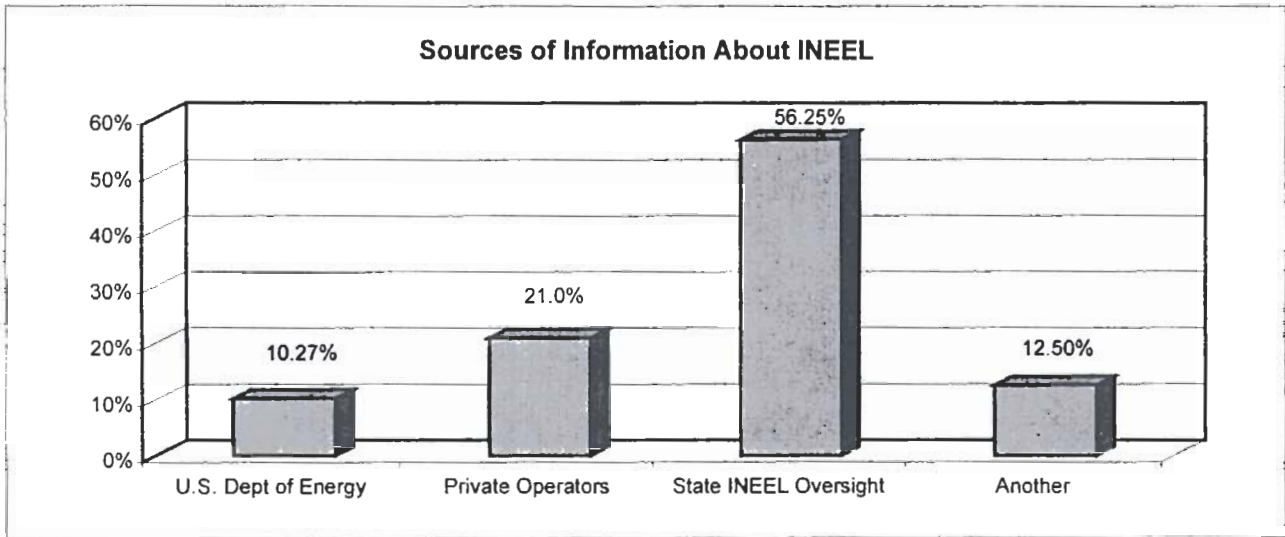
### How well informed are you about the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory?



- \* Most Idahoans (about 60%) are either slightly informed or not at all informed about the INEEL.
- \* Residents of East Central Idaho are most likely to be either very well or somewhat informed about the INEEL. Most residents of the Panhandle region say they are not at all informed about the INEEL.
- \* About half of Idahoans with a high school degree or less education are not at all informed about INEEL. Those with a bachelor's or graduate degree or higher are the most likely to be informed about the INEEL.
- \* Idahoans between the ages of 30 and 69 are most likely to either be very well or somewhat informed about the INEEL. About half of Idahoans under 30 are not at all informed.
- \* Idahoans earning an annual income of \$40,000 or more are the most likely to be somewhat or very well informed about the INEEL. Those earning less than \$20,000 annually are the most likely to be not at all informed about the INEEL.
- \* Males are much more likely than females to be informed about the INEEL.



**Which of the following three INEEL information sources is the most reliable and credible?**



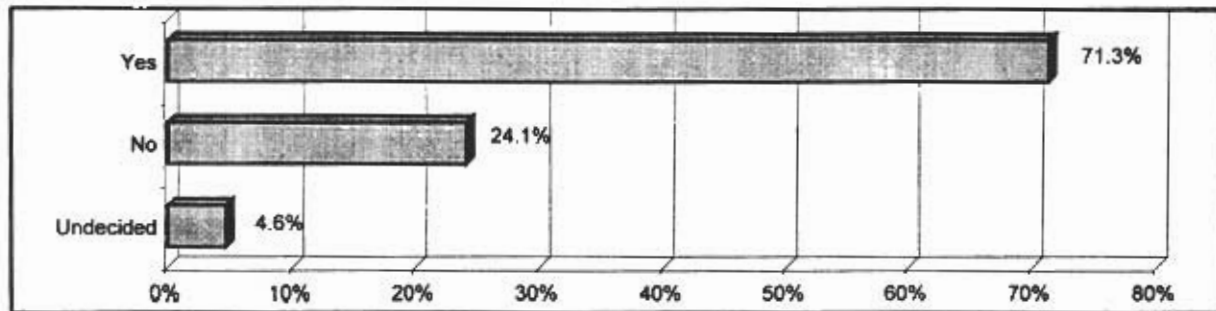
*\* Most Idahoans believe that the State INEEL Oversight Program is the most reliable and credible information source about the INEEL.*

*\* Liberals are most likely to believe that the INEEL Oversight Program is the most reliable source of information about the INEEL. Conservatives are most likely to believe that private operators are the most reliable source of information about the INEEL.*

## Abortion and Birth Control Policy

Currently, most Idaho insurance companies will not pay for birth control prescriptions. Do you think insurance companies should pay for birth control prescriptions?

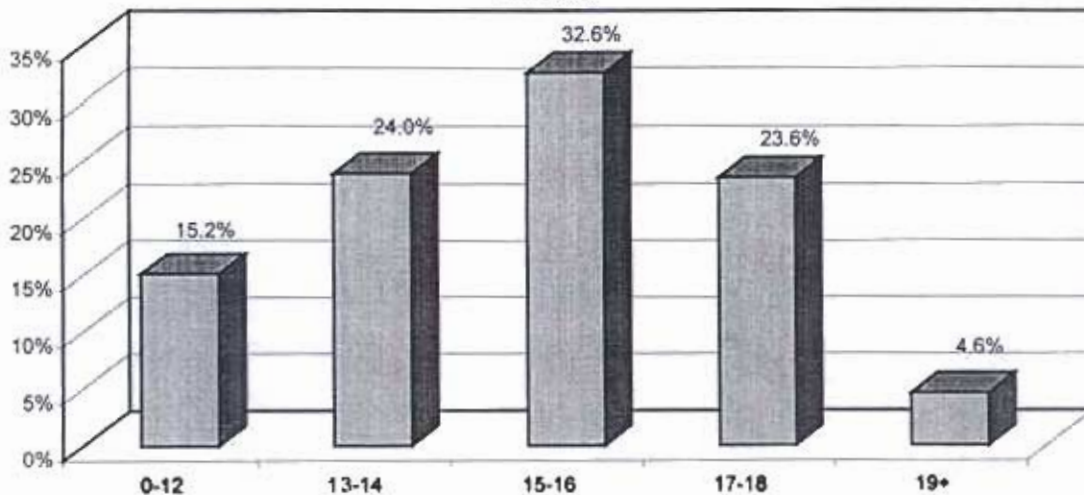
Insurance Companies to Pay for Birth Control



- \* Most Idahoans believe that insurance companies should pay for birth control prescriptions.
- \* Democrats are most likely to believe that insurance companies should pay for birth control.
- \* Liberals are most likely to believe that insurance companies should pay for birth control.
- \* Idahoans under 30 are most likely to believe that insurance companies should pay for birth control.
- \* Females are more likely than males to believe that insurance companies should pay for birth control.

What is the youngest age at which a person should have access to birth control (for the first time)?

Percentage of Respondents Indicating the Appropriate Age for Access to Birth Control

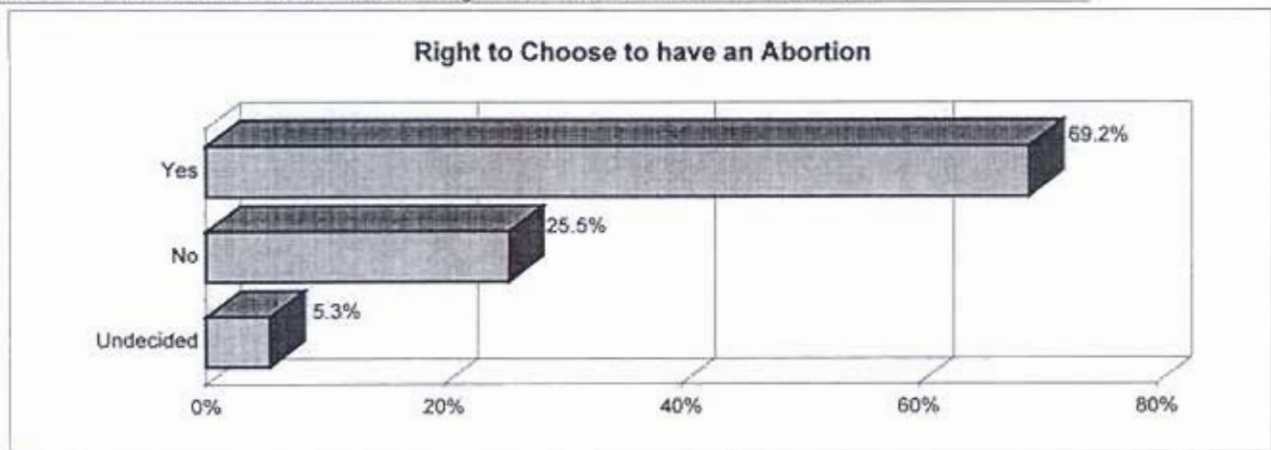


- \* Half of Idahoans think that a person should have access to birth control before the age of 16. About 45% think that birth control should be made available between the ages of 16 and 18.

## Abortion & Birth Control

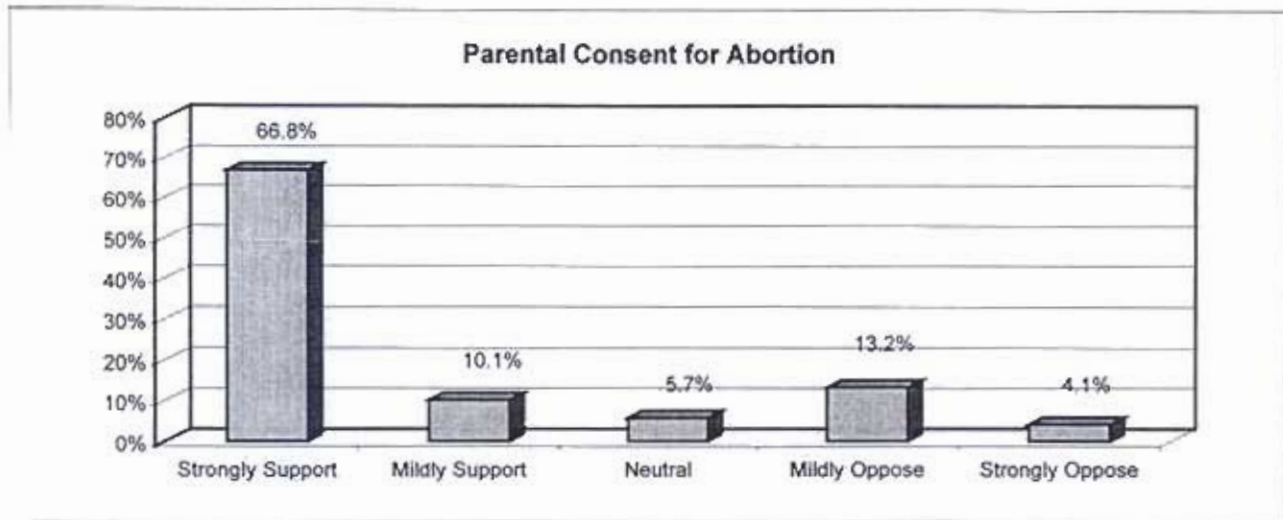
- \* *Democrats and liberals are more likely to believe that access to birth control should begin before the age of 13. Republicans and conservatives are more likely to believe that access to birth control should occur between the ages of 16 and 18.*
- \* *Respondents from rural Idaho are more likely to think that access to birth control should not begin until age 22 or older.*
- \* *Citizens under age 30 are the most likely to think that access to birth control should begin before the age of 16.*

Do you think a woman should have the right to choose to have an abortion?



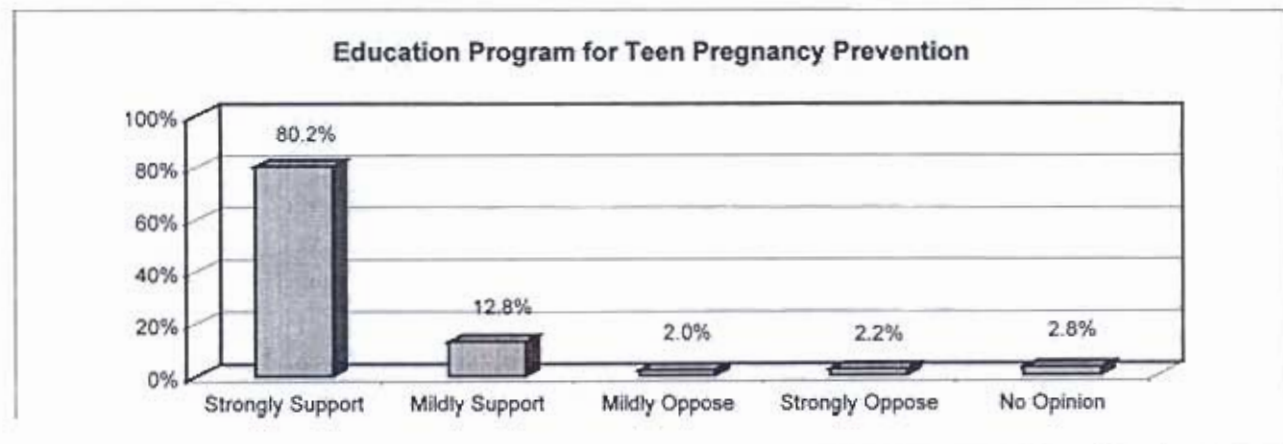
- \* *Over 69 percent of Idahoans believe that a woman should have the right to choose to have an abortion.*
- \* *Democrats are most likely to support legal abortions during the first two trimesters of pregnancy. About half of Republicans support legal abortions.*
- \* *Liberals are most likely to support legal abortions during the first two trimesters of pregnancy.*
- \* *Idahoans with a high school diploma or less education are most likely to support legal abortions during the first two trimesters of pregnancy.*

**Do you support legislation to require parental consent before a minor child can have an abortion?**



- \* A majority of Idahoans (77%) support parental consent for minors to have an abortion.
- \* Residents of Region 3 are the least likely to strongly support parental consent for minor abortions. Residents of Regions 2 and 6 are most likely to strongly support it.
- \* Republicans are much more likely than Democrats and Independents to strongly support parental consent for minor abortions.
- \* Conservative and middle-of-the-road Idahoans are much more likely than liberal Idahoans to support such mandatory consent. Liberals are much more likely than others to oppose such mandatory consent.
- \* Citizens with a bachelor's or higher degree are less likely to support such mandatory consent than are those who are less educated.
- \* Rural Idahoans are more likely to support such mandatory consent than are urban Idahoans.
- \* Idahoans who earn more than \$75,000 per year are more likely to oppose such mandatory consent than are those who earn less.

**Would you support or oppose an educational program concerning teen pregnancy prevention?**

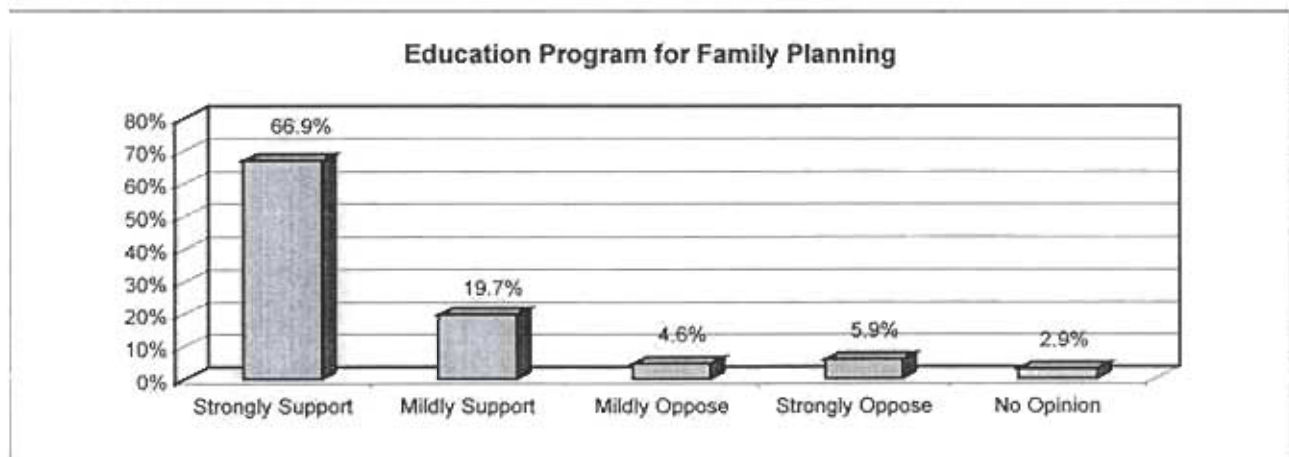




## Abortion & Birth Control

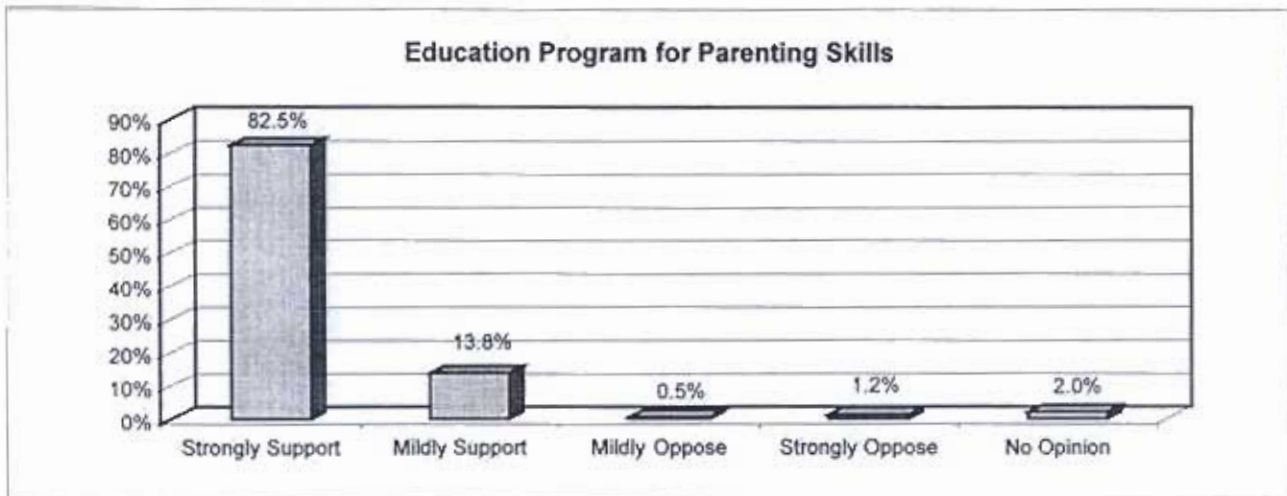
- \* A great majority (93%) of Idahoans support such programs.
- \* Idahoans who are older than 70 years are much less likely to support such programs than are younger Idahoans.
- \* As household income increases, likelihood of strongly supporting such programs increases.
- \* Region 2 residents are most likely to strongly support such programs while Region 4 residents are least likely to do so.
- \* Liberal Idahoans are somewhat more likely to strongly support such programs than are conservative Idahoans.

**Would you support or oppose an educational program concerning family planning including contraceptive usage?**



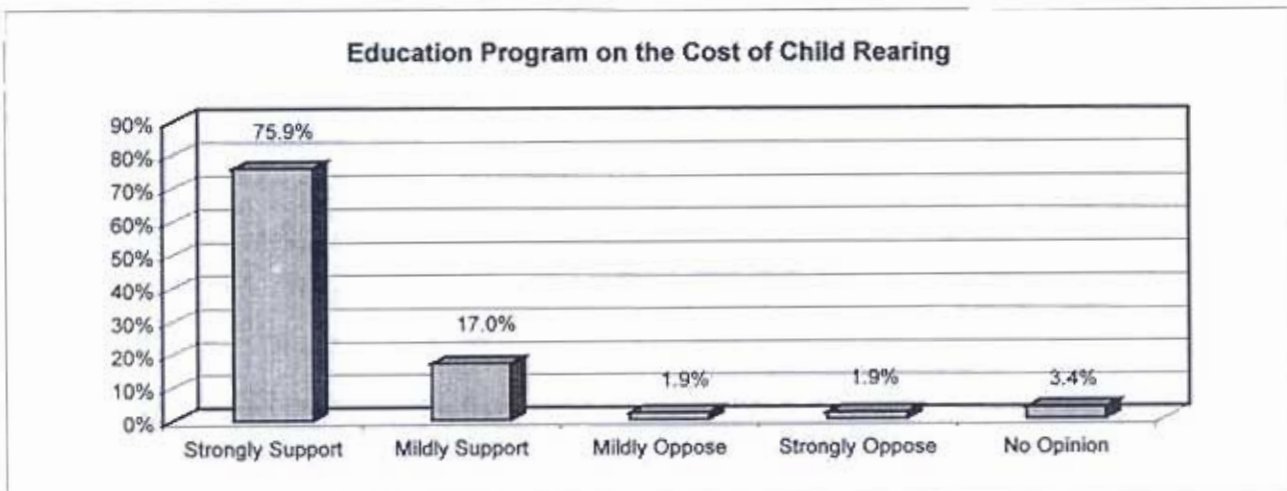
- \* Eighty-seven percent of Idahoans support education programs for family planning including the use of contraceptives.
- \* Region 1 residents are the most likely to strongly support such programs.
- \* Democrats are more likely than Republicans and Independents to support such programs.
- \* Liberal Idahoans are the most likely to strongly support such programs.
- \* Conservative Idahoans are more likely to strongly oppose such programs than are liberal or middle-of-the-road Idahoans.
- \* Older Idahoans are more likely to strongly oppose such programs.
- \* Idahoans in the highest income bracket (more than \$75,000 per year) are the most likely to strongly support such programs.
- \* Women are more likely to strongly support such programs than are men.

**Would you support or oppose an educational program concerning parenting skills?**



- \* *An overwhelming majority of Idahoans (96%) support education programs concerning parenting skills.*
- \* *Idahoans in the highest income bracket (more than \$75,000 per year) are slightly more likely than other Idahoans to strongly support such programs.*
- \* *Democrats were slightly more likely than Republicans to "strongly support" parenting programs.*
- \* *Women were slightly more likely than men to "strongly support" parenting programs.*
- \* *Those with higher education were slightly more likely than those with little education to "strongly support" parenting programs.*

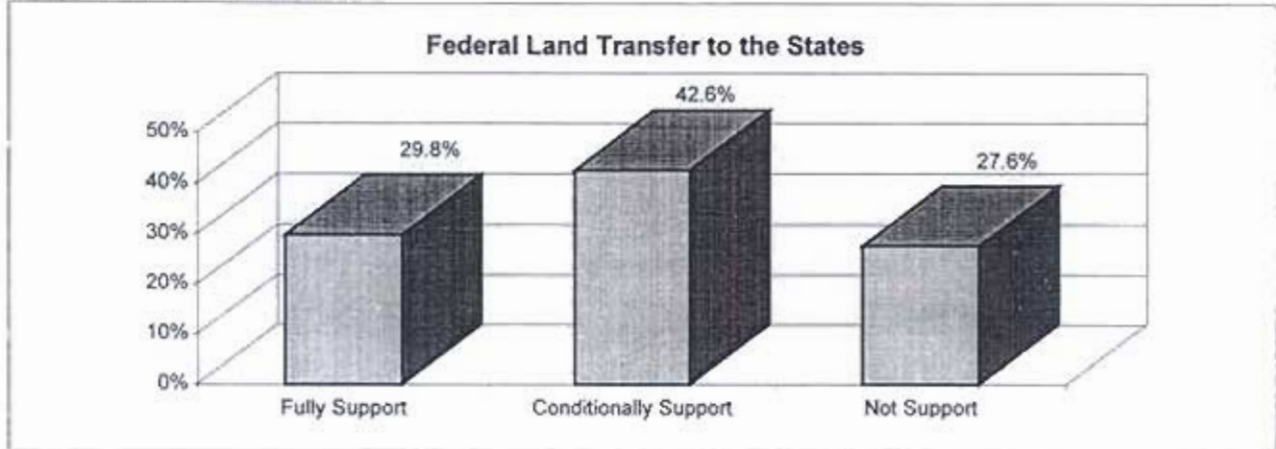
**Would you support or oppose an educational program concerning the cost of child rearing?**



- \* *A great majority of Idahoans (93%) support such programs.*
- \* *Democrats are more likely than Republicans and Independents to strongly support such programs.*
- \* *Liberal Idahoans are much more likely than Conservative Idahoans to strongly support such programs.*
- \* *Idahoans who are 70 and older are the least likely to strongly support such programs.*
- \* *Women are more likely than men to strongly support such programs.*

## Public Land Policy

There have been a number of discussions and proposals to transfer certain federal lands to the states. Do you support these land transfers?

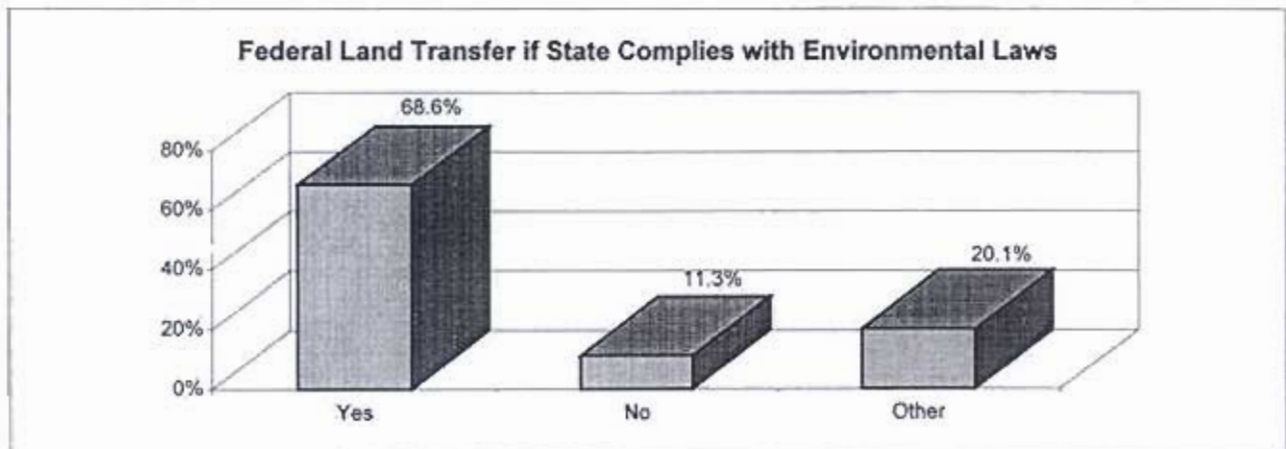


\* Over 40 percent of Idahoans conditionally support the transfer of certain federal lands to the states. Almost equal percentages (about 28%) fully support or do not support such transfers.

\* Idahoans over 70 are most likely to fully support land transfers. The two age groups, under 30 years and between 30 and 49 are most likely to conditionally support land transfers.

\* Democrats are most likely among political parties to not support land transfers. Independents and Republicans are more likely to conditionally support land transfers.

Do you support land transfers if state management agencies comply with all existing federal environmental laws?



\* 68 percent of Idahoans support land transfers if state management agencies comply with all existing federal environmental laws.

\* There were no major differences between regions, gender, income or other demographic variables on this issue.

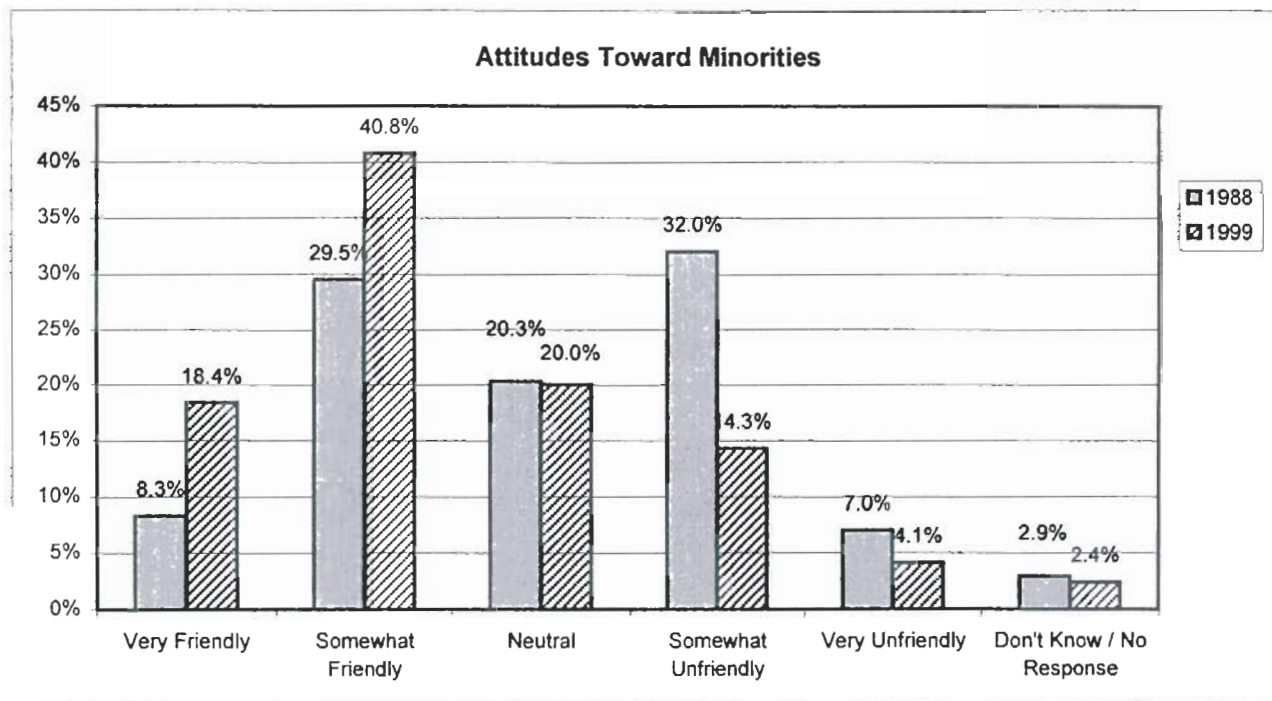


## Attitudes Toward Minorities and Prevalence of Discrimination in Idaho

Questions regarding attitudes toward minorities are compared to a similar survey conducted in 1988.

For more detailed information on prejudice in Idaho see the separate report: Survey of Racial and Religious Prejudice in Idaho, 1999, Center for Public Policy and Administration, Boise State University.

*In the area where you live, which of the following would you say best describes the majority attitude toward minorities?*



\* Generally, attitudes toward minorities have improved since 1988 with more describing their community attitudes as friendly, and fewer as unfriendly.

\* Respondents from Region 3 had the highest percent (65.4%) of either "very friendly" or "somewhat friendly." Region 4 had the lowest percent "very friendly" (9.7%), but the highest "somewhat friendly" (51.4%). Region 6 had the highest rate of "somewhat unfriendly" (20.9%) and Region 1 had the highest rate of "very unfriendly" (10.0%).

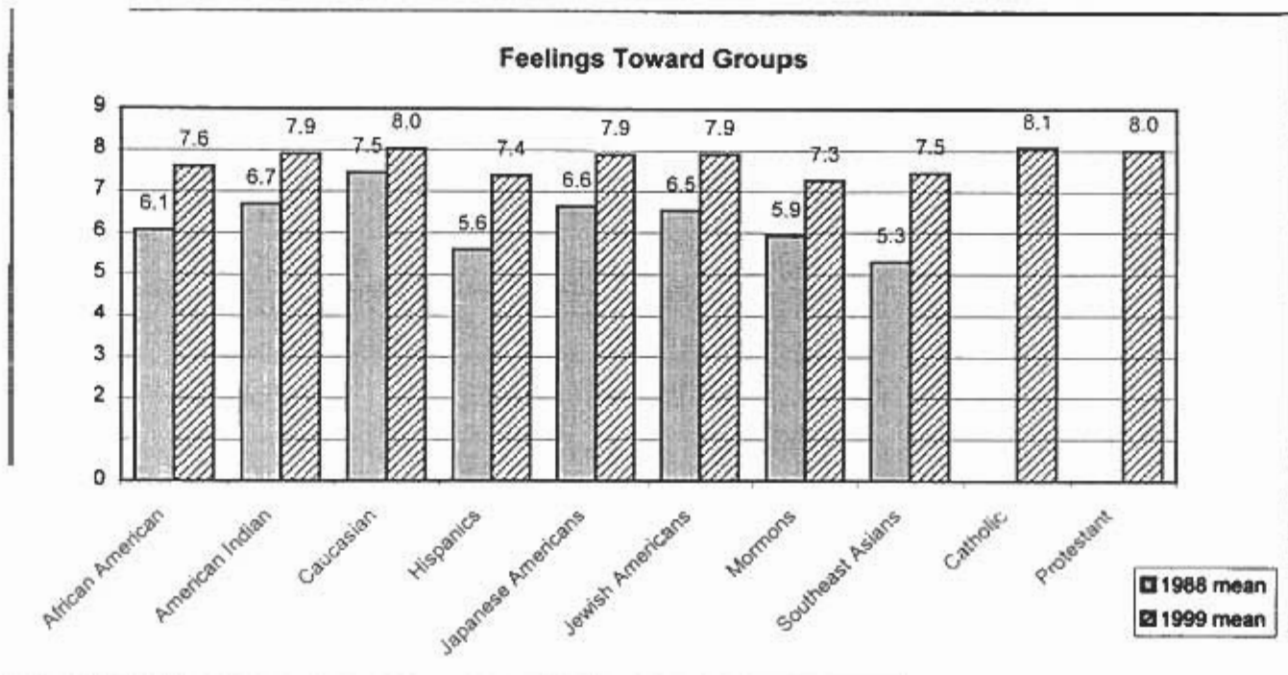
\* Women were slightly more inclined to respond that the areas where they live were unfriendly (20.7%) than males (16.7%).

\* The higher the education level, the more likely respondents were to say their areas were "unfriendly."



## Prejudice

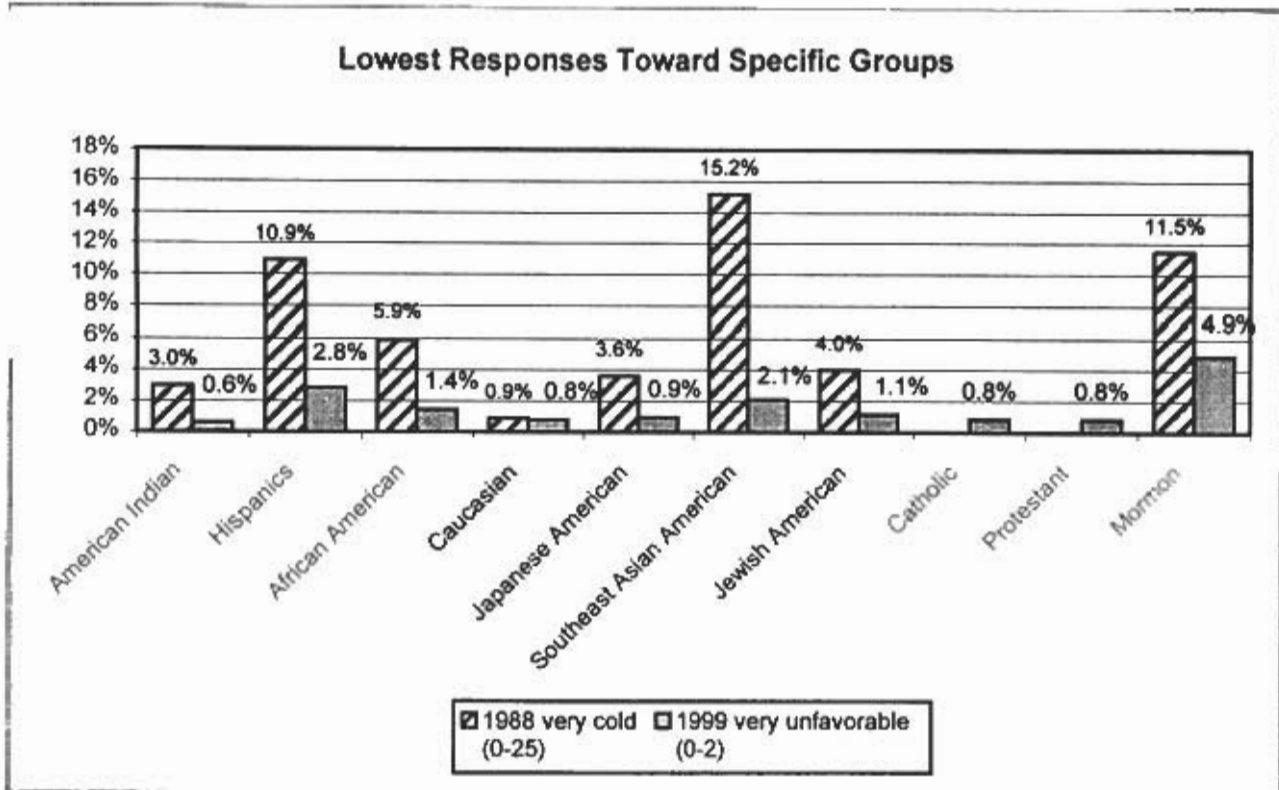
*On a scale of 0 to 10, where zero represents an unfavorable feeling toward a group, five represents a neutral feeling, and ten represents a favorable feeling, describe how you feel toward each of the following groups.*



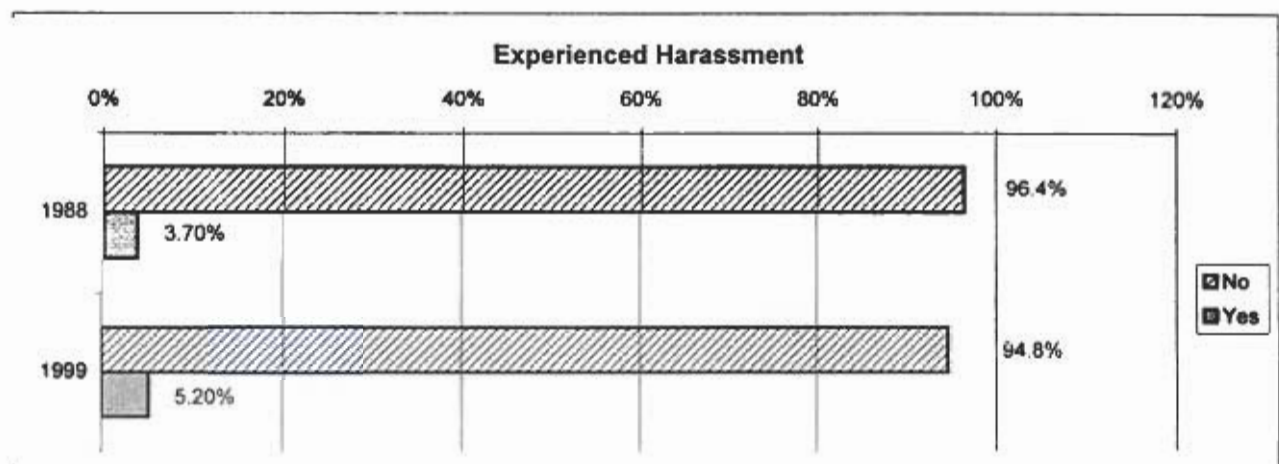
- \* The general attitude toward specific minority groups has improved for each group since 1988.
- \* The three groups receiving the lowest overall rating were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or Mormons (7.28 out of 10 - where 10 represents favorable feelings), Hispanics (7.39 out of 10), and African-Americans (7.61 out of 10).
- \* Regions 4 and 5 (15.1% for each), political independents, those with less education, and under 30 years of age were most likely to view Mormons unfavorably.
- \* Region 4 (13.2%), Republicans, those with less education, and under 30 years of age were most likely to view Hispanics unfavorably.

## Prejudice

The following graph shows the lowest responses for the years 1988 and 1999. Every group received lower negative responses in 1999, but Mormon and Hispanics received several "unfavorable" responses.



During the past two years, have you or anyone in your household ever been harassed, physically hurt, or had property destroyed for racial, ethnic, or religious reasons?



\* Very few respondents indicated they had ever been harassed. The percent saying they had been harassed has increased since 1988.

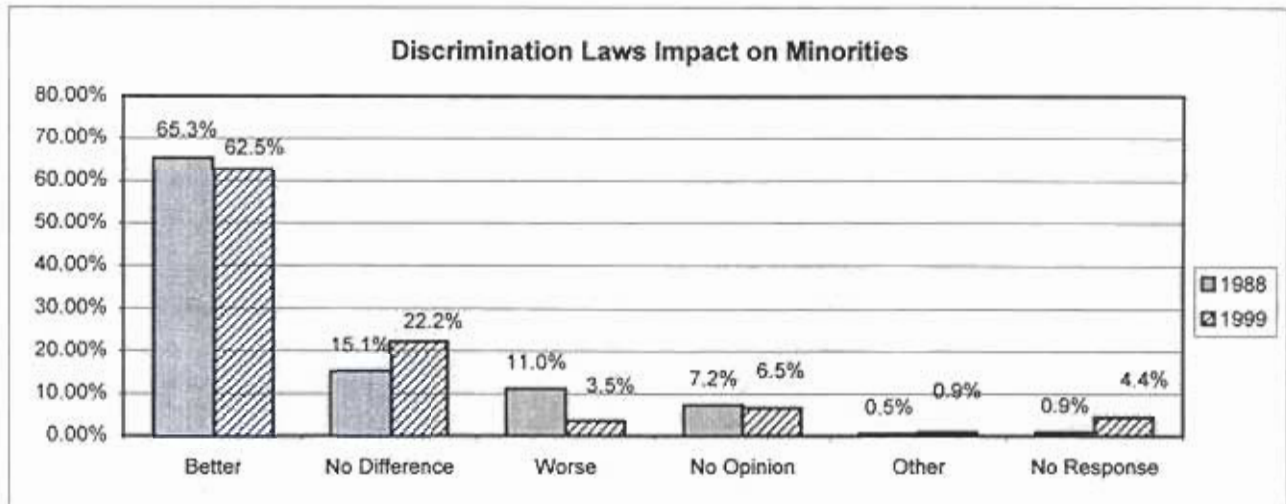
## Prejudice

\* Of those saying they had experienced harassment, 28 individuals (82.4%) said the harassment had occurred in Idaho.

\* Nineteen individuals said they had experienced "harassment," three had experienced "physical harm," and nine had experienced "property destruction."

\* Of the 28 respondents who said they had experienced harassment, 16 believed the harassment occurred because of racial or ethnic reasons, eight because of religious reasons, six said it was due to both racial and religious reasons and four did not respond. (multiple responses were allowed)

Do you think changes in discrimination laws made things better, worse, or have made no difference for minority people?



\* The majority of respondents indicate discrimination laws have made things better for minorities.

\* Respondents from Region 3 are more likely to think discrimination laws have helped minorities, while those from Region 4 are more likely to think discrimination laws have made things worse for minorities.

\* Those over 56 years of age are more likely to think discrimination laws have made things better for minorities.

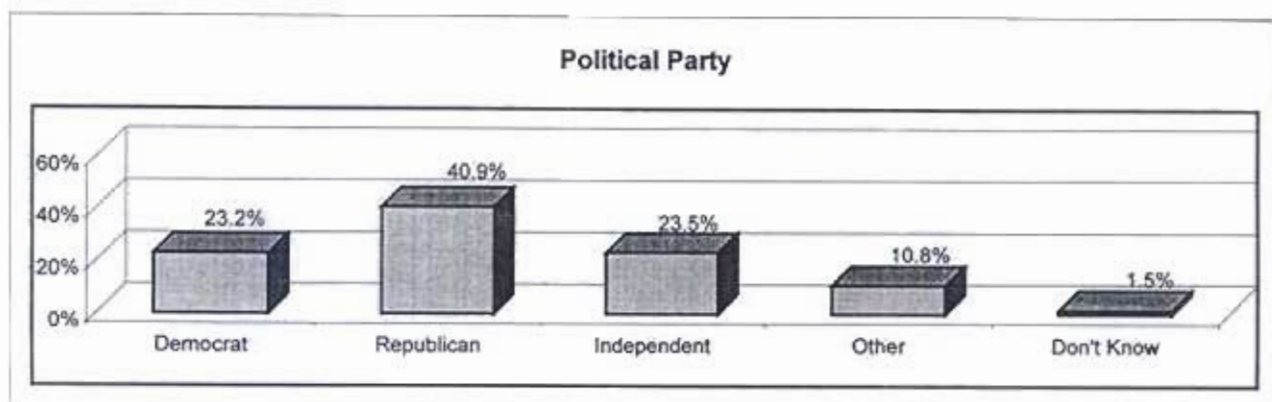
\* Females are more likely to think these laws have made things better for minorities.

\* Those with less education are more likely than those with more education to think discrimination laws have made things worse for minorities.

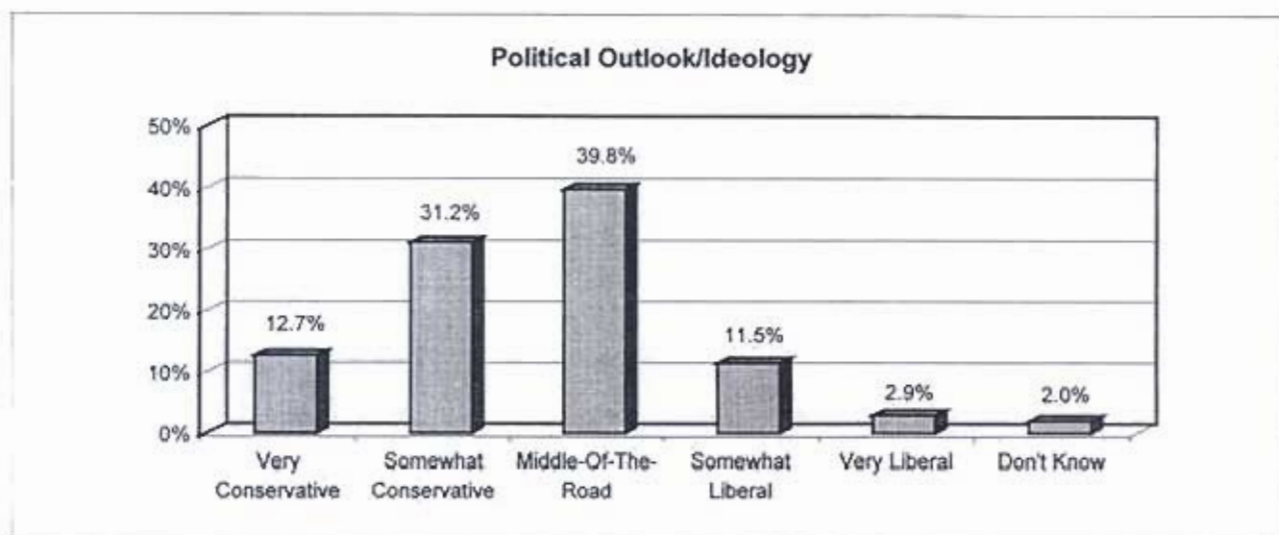
\* The largest group of respondents (46.75%) believe that discrimination laws have made no difference for Caucasians.

## Demographics

### Survey Demographics



- \* *East Central Idaho has the most Republicans, North Central Idaho has the most Democrats and South Central Idaho has the most Independents.*
- \* *More than half of the Democrats in Idaho are over 50 years old. Idahoans under 30 are most likely among the age groups to consider themselves Independent.*
- \* *Women are more likely to be Democrats than men.*



- \* *Forty percent of Idahoans consider themselves middle-of-the-road.*
- \* *A majority of Idahoans living in East Central Idaho consider themselves conservative. Residents of South Central and Southeast Idaho mostly consider themselves middle-of-the-road. North Central was the most liberal among the districts.*
- \* *Idahoans with a bachelor's or graduate degree considered themselves to be liberal more often than those with lower levels of education.*
- \* *The older the Idahoan, the more likely they are to consider themselves conservative. Those under 30 are most likely to consider themselves middle-of-the-road. The 30 to 49 cohort is the most liberal among the age groups.*

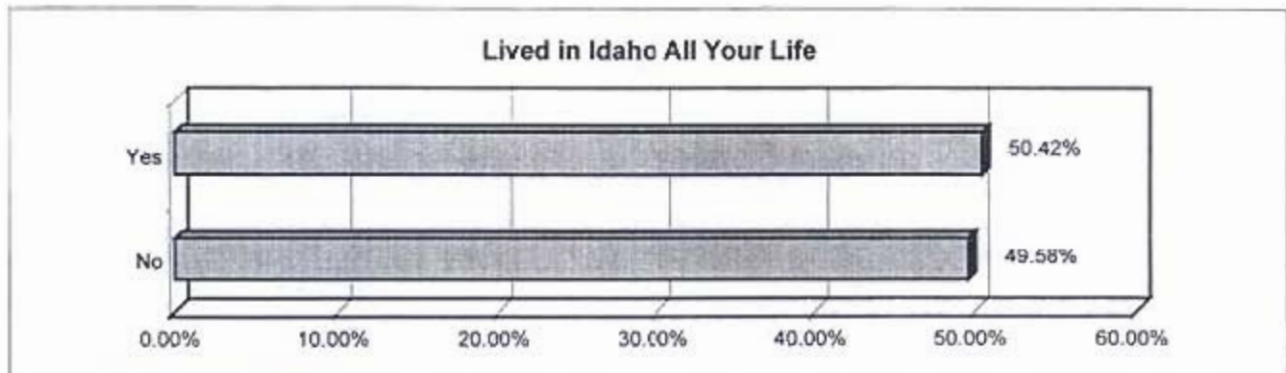


## Demographics

- \* Idahoans earning less than \$20,000 annually are the most conservative while those earning more than \$75,000 are the most liberal.*
- \* Females are more likely than males to consider themselves liberal.*
- \* Democrats and Independents are more likely to consider themselves middle-of-the-road, while Republicans are more likely to consider themselves conservative.*

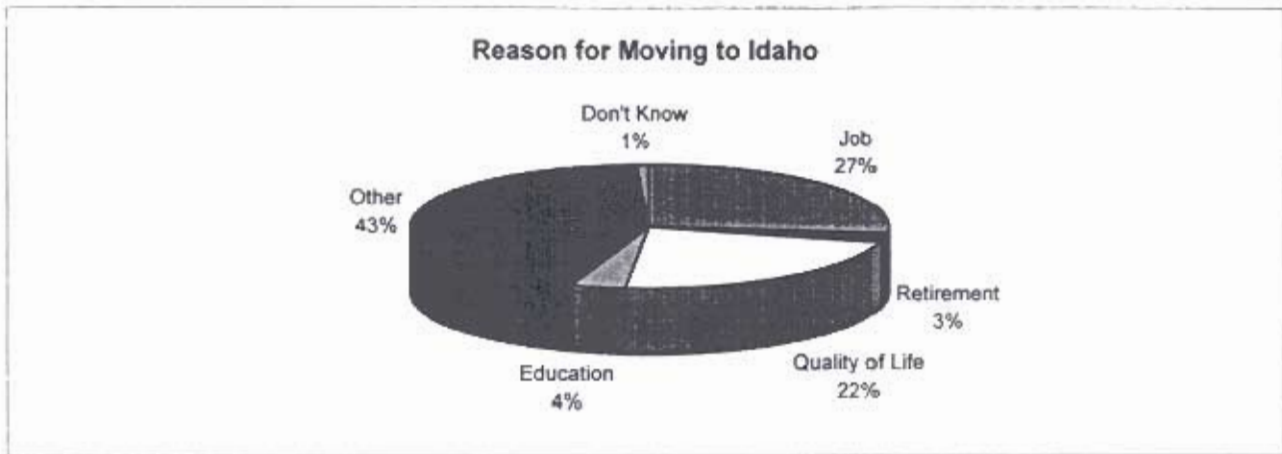


- \* The number of years respondents have lived in Idaho reflect the constant in-migration to the state. The largest peaks occur at 20 years and 50 years, but there are large numbers of respondents in the 5 to 10 year range and 25 to 35 year range.*

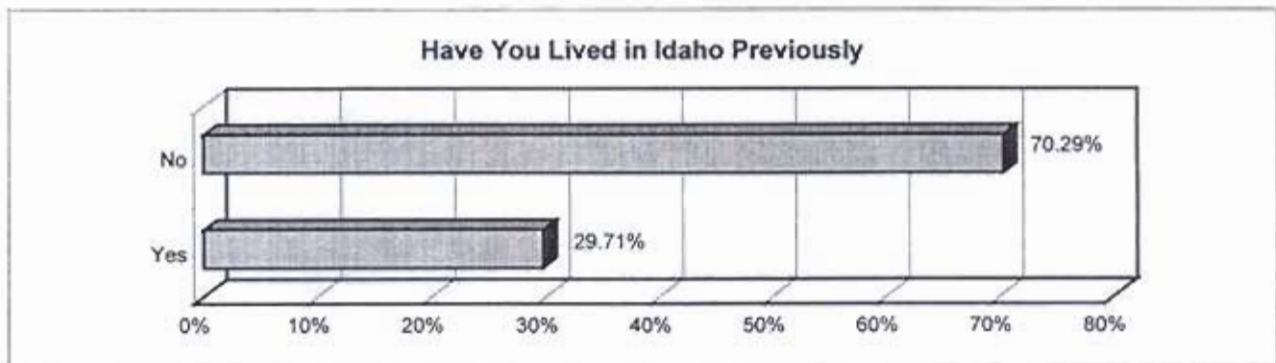


- \* About half of respondents have lived in Idaho all their lives, while nearly the same number of residents have moved to Idaho at some time in their lives.*

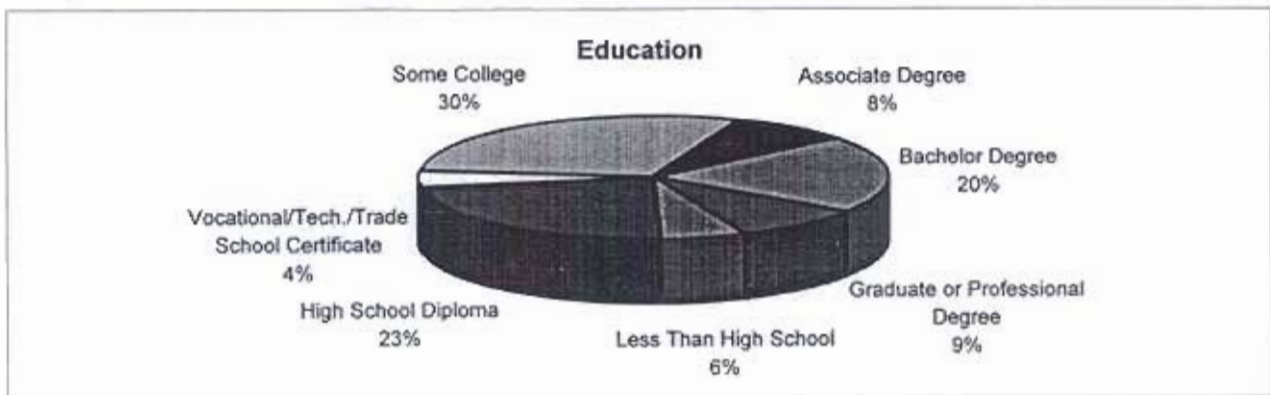
## Demographics



\* A large number of respondents moved to Idaho for job opportunities and the quality of life. The response "other" was the largest response category, with most of these comments related to a desire to move closer to family living in Idaho and variations of job and quality of life responses.

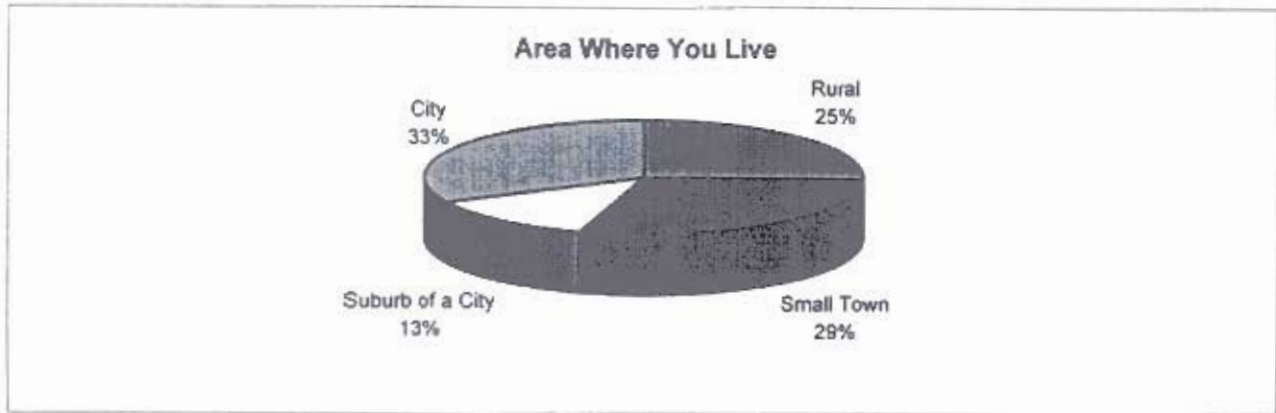


\* Most respondents who have moved to Idaho have not lived here previously.

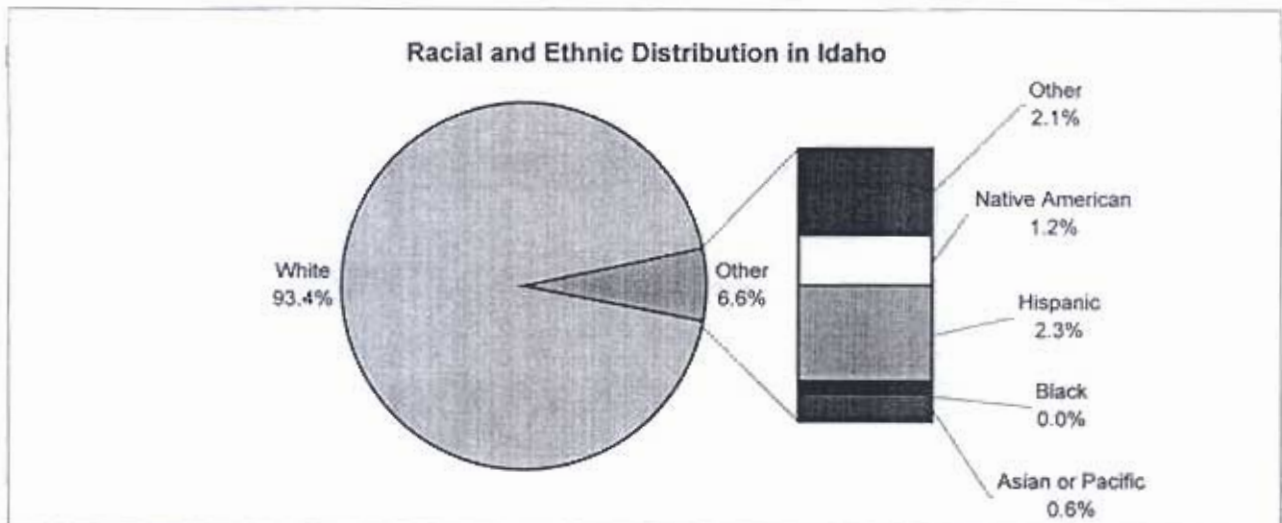


\* A very large percentage of respondents have a high school education or greater.

## Demographics

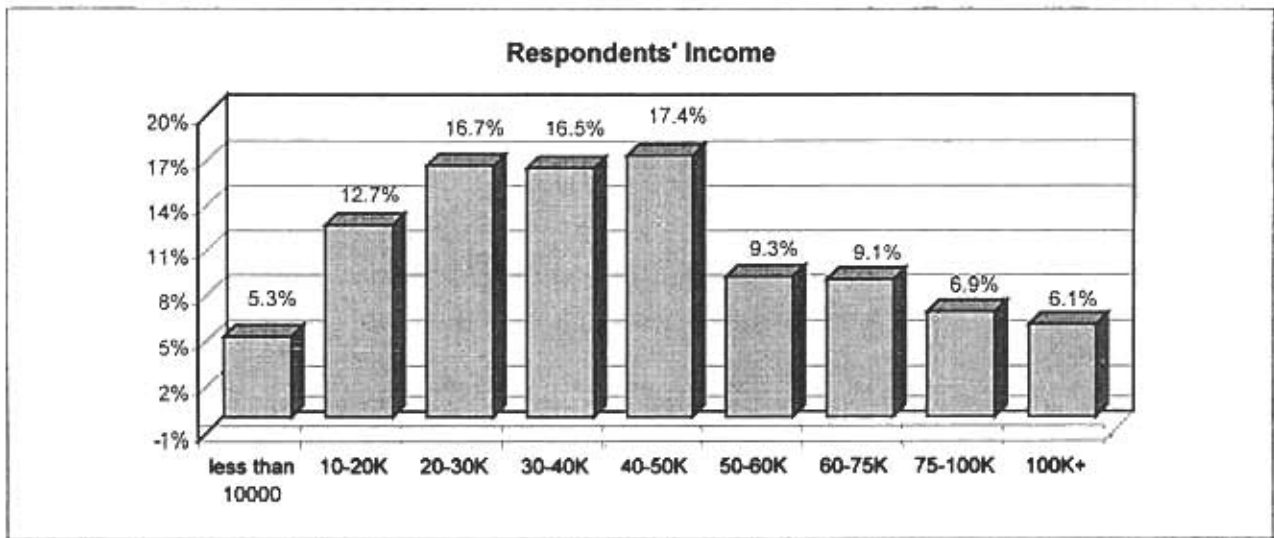


*\* Most respondents still consider themselves as living in rural or small town environments. Nearly half (46%) live in cities or suburbs.*

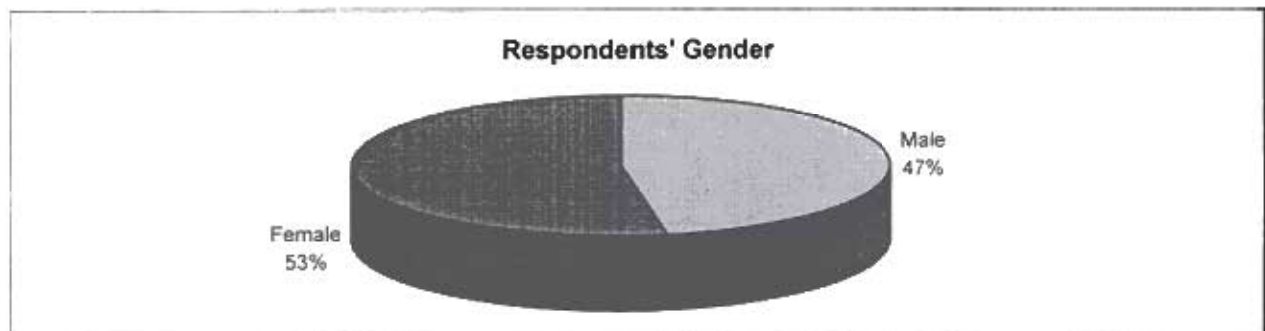


*\* The population of Idaho is predominantly white, as was reflected in the survey. Of the minorities surveyed, most identified themselves as Hispanic.*

## Demographics



\* The average income of respondents fell within the \$20,000 to \$50,000 range. There was little difference in the number of respondents reporting income in the \$20-\$30,000, \$30-\$40,000, and \$40-\$50,000 ranges. The numbers dropped off significantly above \$50,000.



\* The majority of respondents were female.